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Thursday April 18 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Oman CR 1.00
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The Guardian

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Labour targets company cars

Tax hike revealed in leaked plans

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

DRASTIC reform of company car use and a clampdown on company car tax evasion are at the heart of a Labour Party statement on transport policy expected to be released next month. The measures could damage car production.

urban congestion and promises tax concessions for firms which adopt company travel plans reducing car travel. Labour says it wants to stabilise national traffic levels by 2010 and reduce them to 1990 levels by 2020. To this end it will produce a 20-year strategy with a five-year rolling programme for transport investment and taxation. It will establish a national transport forum, drawn from business and transport users and operators, who will advise government on strategy and produce an annual report to Parliament. The overall strategy will

require an increase in public spending, but this will have to depend on economic growth. Proposals include:

- a 30 per cent reduction in urban traffic over 10 years;
- speed limits of 50mph on some residential streets;
- More speed cameras;
- French-style picnic areas and lay-bys to replace the Government's "motorway service area free-for-all";
- a national network of truckstop facilities;
- a simplified national fares and ticket system, allowing people "significantly cheaper and more flexible travel on buses and trains";

□ an end to the Government's privately inspired "design, build and operate" road schemes. The national targets will be used as a framework for local authorities to set targets for cutting traffic and pollution. The document deals with the rail industry only in a general way. It was drawn up while the leadership was trying to make up its mind on rail privatisation and the flotation of Railtrack. It says Labour would combine with the private sector to invest in rail, but not whether it would re-nationalise the system. The document says Labour

can achieve many of its objectives "simply by redirecting transport spending". It says it can make savings from "bringing the railways back together, and cutting the 'grave train' of consultants and lawyers". Labour will redirect "significant sums" currently earmarked for road building towards local transport strategies. It says 80 per cent of cars entering London are company cars or have free parking at work. The statement suggests that "many company cars are 'perks', given as part of salary packages rather than because of genuine need".

The statement proposes taxing the full value of free fuel to company car users and penalising those who could not prove that they had been using their car for business. It is likely to provoke a furious reaction from the industry. Car manufacturers have repeatedly said production would be badly affected and cause job losses. The purchase of company cars is increasing, while cars bought solely for private use is flattening out. Of the 180,275 registrations in March, 57 per cent were for fleet cars. Last year nearly 50 per cent of registrations were

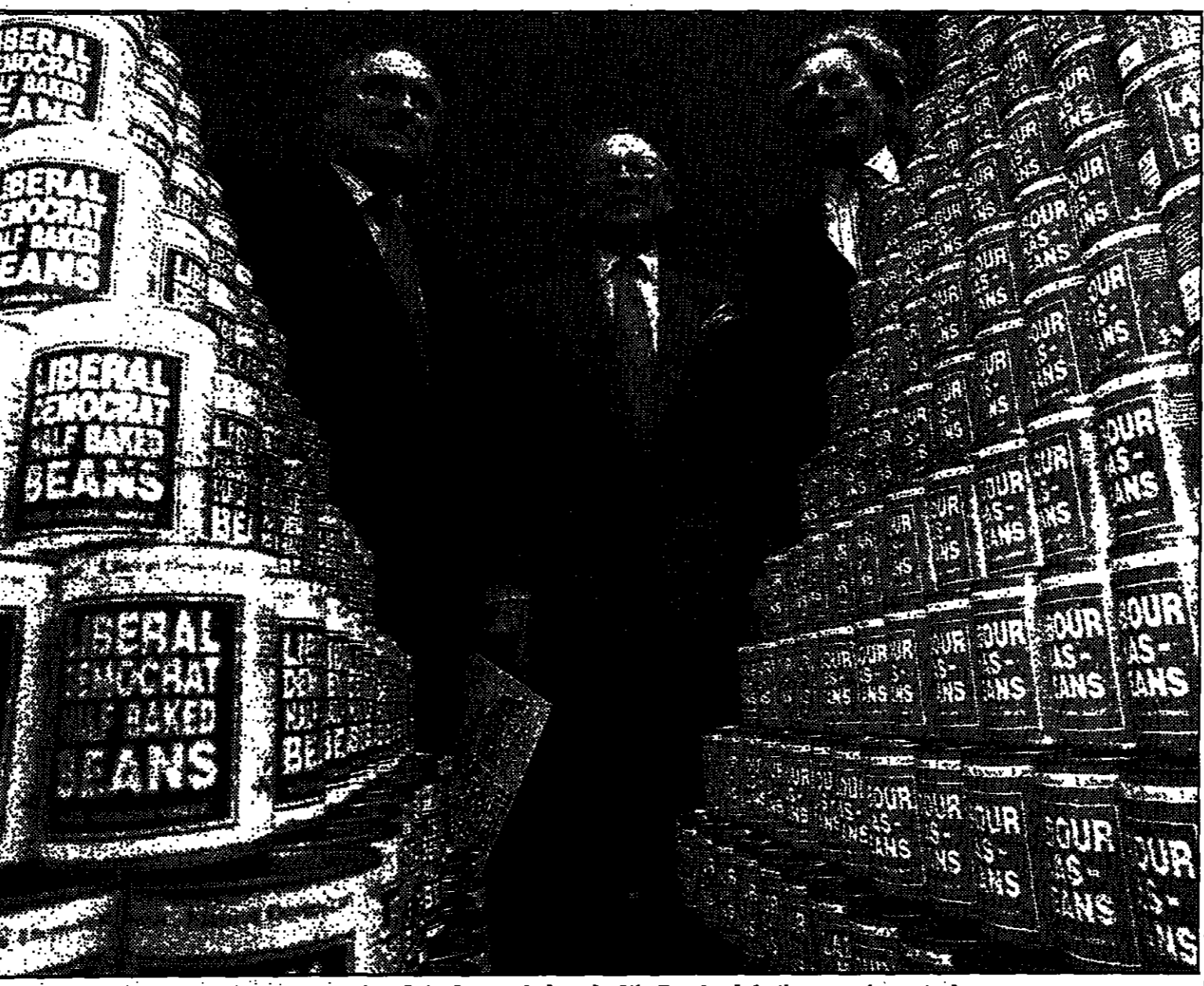
for fleet cars. A total of 1,945,386 cars were registered, of which 912,629 were for company use where there were more than 25 in a fleet. Labour is considering a business charge on parking space in commercial premises to fund public transport. These could support town centres by reducing rates on small businesses. The party wants to offer alternatives to car-based shopping by encouraging home delivery services a condition of planning permission for shop schemes. Letters, page 8



Tory chief suffers radio rage

Peterik Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

It should have been a fine day, the launch of an election campaign and a time when a party chairman comes into his own. And yet, under gentle questioning by the Today programme's Sue MacGregor, Brian Mawhinney exploded on air. Dr Mawhinney had been struggling to contain his notorious temper as Ms MacGregor began her interview. He fought to contain himself as he acknowledged "the challenge to the Tories of the local elections". Ms MacGregor reminded him that in 1990 the Tories had got rid of the troublesome poll tax and its architect, Margaret Thatcher. Might the party "have to do something equally dramatic" if it was not to lose more seats? Dr Mawhinney lifted off. "Let's stay in the real world, can we?" He was quickly in orbit. "What you have just suggested... is that we should dump the Prime Minister. Don't be ridiculous. That isn't even worthy of an answer," he thundered.



Brian Mawhinney, left, John Gummer and Michael Heseltine at the launch of the Tory local election campaign yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU

"You drew the parallel with Mrs Thatcher and that is a ludicrous, and indefensible question, and if you think I'm annoyed with you it is because it is that kind of an easy question by Today programme presenters, which so annoys people who listen to this programme up and down the country."

He left in a huff. Two hours later he was back at the launch of the campaign he had masterminded, menacing smile glued in place. He must have taken weeks to dress up this one: to pose with lot of cans, mocked up to look like baked beans. He brought along some chums to pose for the cameras. And who better than two who like to go ballistic on BBC Radio? There was John Gummer, Environment Secretary. He blew up on Today a couple of weeks back, when asked about that picture of him stuffing a burger into his daughter's mouth. He seemed happy enough to be pictured with this

foodstuff. And poor old Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister. His clashes with Today presenters are usually joints he privately admits to getting on with them. At least he had the grace to look embarrassed.

Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9

A sad day for Carlo too in the fuss at court No. 1

Jobless mechanic's five minutes of fame reveals fate worse than Yorks

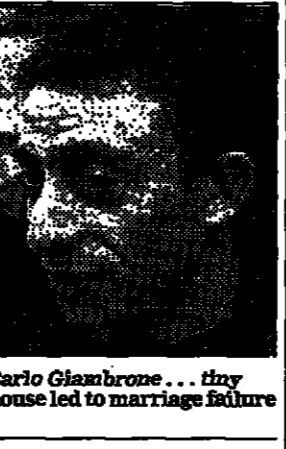
Gary Young

CARLO Giambrone was "gobsmacked". The unemployed mechanic arrived at court No.1 in Somerset House yesterday in a bomber jacket and jeans to tell the judge he could not afford to pay the costs awarded against him after his divorce. He left five minutes later being compared with the Duke of York and facing ques-

tion from the world's media about the future of the monarchy and where his own marriage had gone wrong. "I thought I was going to be on my own - in and out," he said. "It was a big surprise to me, all the fuss." It was in the five minutes between coming and going that he learned that the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York was on the same list in a hearing that lasted just over three minutes, with the court judge granting decrees nisi all round. Carlo, aged 28, and the duke both have two children for whom they would like to take joint responsibility and arranged: wives with whom they would like to remain "good friends". But the similarities between case 15, A E v C Giambrone, and case 28, HRE The Duke of York v HRE The Duchess of York, end there. Giambrone, born in Britain of Italian parents, got married at Fulham register office in 1989 and had a reception at a tourist hotel in west London. When they got back they

moved into a tiny house. "I had to sleep on the sofa, and my wife had a single bed in a bedroom no bigger than an ordinary bathroom. It took us two and a half years to get out of there, and by then things were not so good." The judge told him the costs to support his two children, aged six and nine months, were a matter for the solicitors in the case. "I have my kids every weekend, I shall carry on giving my wife what support I can, though at the moment I'm only getting 274 benefit every two weeks." Meanwhile, on the other

side of the continent, the Duchess of York emerged from her Swiss chalet to announce that yesterday was the saddest day of her life. "We'll take every day as it comes - every day is a new day," she said, declaring that she and Andrew would remain "bestest of friends". In six weeks the couple will be formally divorced. Mr Giambrone said of the Yorks: "It seems amazing to be dealt with in the same way like this."



Carlo Giambrone... tiny house led to marriage failure

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THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES

US firm targets National Power

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

TAKEOVER frenzy in the privatised electricity industry erupted again yesterday as National Power, Britain's biggest power station operator, found its plans for expansion threatened by an audacious approach from a US company which could lead to an \$8.5 billion bid. In a move which presents Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, with the toughest dilemma he has faced since the sector last year, Southern Company of Atlanta, Georgia, officially confirmed that it had approached National Power to discuss a merger. Were the US group - which already owns one of the 12 regional electricity companies having taken over SWEB - to succeed, it would accelerate an assault on the British power sector by American corporations which could see them owning between a third and a half of the entire industry. The approach from Southern - widely criticised in the US for its corporate practices - comes as National Power

and its smaller rival, PowerGen, are waiting for clearance from the Monopolies Commission and Mr Lang to take control of two separate regional power companies. National Power last autumn launched a \$2.5 billion bid for Southern Electric, soon after PowerGen unveiled a similar agreed deal, this time worth \$1.9 billion, for Midlands Electricity. The takeovers were referred to the MMC on the grounds that they would bring together power generators with electricity distribution companies for the first time since privatisation in 1990, when the two sides of the industry were deliberately kept separate to avoid vertical integration. Industry watchdogs have argued strongly that the bids would harm consumers and competition. But last week leaked copies of the commission's findings suggested that the MMC was prepared to allow the deals to proceed, raising City expectations that Mr Lang would endorse the recommendations. The Southern Company, which carries a US stock market listing, returns to page 3, column 6 City notebook, page 11

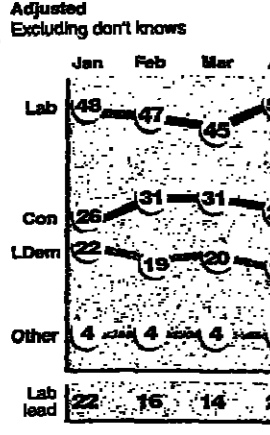
**STEPTRONIC GEARBOX
13% MORE RESPONSIVE**

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES

Best rating for year ends downward drift as local elections near □ Tax cut fails to lift Conservatives

Labour hits opinion poll high

Voting intention



Martin Kettle

LABOUR'S poll rating has leapt to its highest level in nearly a year, following last week's Staffordshire South-East byelection victory. The result leaves the Conservatives facing an even worse than expected showing in next month's local elections.

In the latest Guardian/ICM monthly adjusted opinion survey Labour is on 50 per cent (up 5 points compared with March), with the Conservatives 29 (down 3), Liberal Democrats 17 (down 3) and others 4 (no change). Labour's lead over the Conservatives

has increased by seven points in a month, from 14 per cent in March to 21 per cent in April.

The latest monthly poll shows a particularly sharp swing from Conservative to Labour among women voters, 7.5 per cent, compared with a 2.5 per cent swing among men.

This is the first time that Labour has scored 50 per cent or more since June last year, before John Major's re-election as Conservative leader narrowed the gap between the parties.

Labour is not back to the record ratings it achieved in spring 1995, but the new high ends a downward drift for the party in the polls since the

New Year.

The Conservatives will be disappointed that this month's tax changes have not improved the party's showing. The Liberal Democrats have recorded their worst showing this year.

Like all surveys taken immediately after a newsworthy byelection, the latest figures probably reflect a post-byelection surge for the winning party. However the swing also reflects a bad month for the Government, dominated by the beef crisis.

In the less reliable unadjusted monthly survey Labour stands on 56 per cent (up 5), Conservatives 25 (down 1), Liberal Democrats 16 (down 4), others 4 (no

change). Labour's lead in the unadjusted survey is 31 points, compared with 25 in March.

The Conservatives will take comfort from Labour's much narrower lead on economic policies. Asked which party has the best policies for dealing with the economy, voters said Labour 52, Conservatives 22, Liberal Democrats 8, others 1, with 39 per cent undecided.

Voters overwhelmingly want Mr Major to call a general election if he loses his Commons majority, now standing at one following last week's byelection.

If the Conservatives lose overall control of the Commons, nearly three-quarters

of voters want Mr Major to call an election. Fewer than one in six want him to carry on at the head of a minority regime, the course the Prime Minister is thought to favour. A mere 4 per cent favour a Tory deal with the Ulster Unionists.

Even among Conservative voters a majority favour an immediate general election if the majority is lost.

ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18 and over by telephone over April 12-18. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults.

Sketch

Useful martyr puts Tories on the rack



Simon Hoggart

DON'T fully subscribe to the depiction of Clare Short as a feminist martyr pinned on the rack by Mr Blair's male Myrmidons merely because of her remarks about tax last weekend.

Nor am I altogether happy with the blunt "speak-as-I-find" usage she cultivates, a politically correct version of the Duchess of York. There's an elderly lady in our neighbourhood who rides her bike down the street speaking her mind at the top of her voice. But you can't do that in a shadow cabinet.

Yet most people are tremendously fond of Ms Short. So am I. Perhaps at times she is a little too eager to do Mr Blair's more distasteful jobs for him, actively helping to de-select candidates such as Liz Davies who do not fit the New Labour template, but few doubt her honesty.

The far left groupuscule Labour Briefing describes her in the old Stalinist phrase, as "Blair's Useful Idiot", but that is preferable to being another of Blair's Useless Sophisticates.

Yesterday, as Opposition transport spokeswoman, she had to lead in a debate on the privatisation of Railtrack, and she did extremely well.

She rose to a huge cheer from both sides; nearly everyone likes her, the Tories in particular because they think she has revealed Labour's real tax plans, Labour backbenchers because she is on bad terms with the leader's office.

(As one of the Myrmidons told this paper the other day: "She accepts that she screwed up big-time." This stuff is borrowed from the United States, where political sidekicks feel obliged to talk about each other as if they were rival Mafia consiglieri. We'll know the virus is terminal when we hear the ultimate tough-guy phrase, usually from spotty

young men who couldn't punch their way out of a crisp packet: "Blair cleaned her clock.")

She was obviously nervous and when she began speaking her voice quavered and trembled. But she produced a tough, reasoned argument which the Conservatives found hard to answer.

After a few moments she smiled sweetly and said: "I would like to see a few words about tax." The Tories shuffled with pleasure, hoping she would dig a deeper pit and jump straight in it.

"The cost of privatising the railways," she said, "works out at £106.38 per taxpayer equivalent to one penny on the basic rate of tax."

There is no answer to that, and the Conservatives did not provide one. Indeed they were strangely quiet throughout her speech, so much so that it ended after only 20 minutes — wondrously brief in these days of logorrhoeic frontbenchers.

She made good use of the leaked letter from the British Rail chairman, pointing out that the Railtrack flotation prospectus is wildly optimistic, and she had amusing sport with the ludicrously small amount provided for Railtrack to pay penalties to the various spivs, foreigners and rail-raid who are taking over the train companies.

A clumsy metaphor ("this is like a vandal who is going to destroy a monument asking the caretaker what he will do to restore the monument after he has destroyed it") didn't do her much good, and she even gave some indication of what her party would do in government — a rare sighting of a Labour policy. Apparently they are going to get the rail regulator to grab hold of Railtrack's generative organs, and squeeze them as hard as they can.

Sir George Young, a good man fallen among Tory ministers, had prepared a speech about taxes. "Harriet Harman was endorsed for acting like a Tory," Ms Short rebuked for speaking like a socialist, but she had already defused the issue with her sidekicks. The Speaker told Sir George to get back to the subject. Dawn Primarolo sat next to Labour's new heroine, and the two girls shared a warm little hand-cuddle.

Sweet success for UK's oily chocs

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE issue had engaged some of the finest minds in Europe for 3½ years — whether British chocolate should in fact be called vegetable.

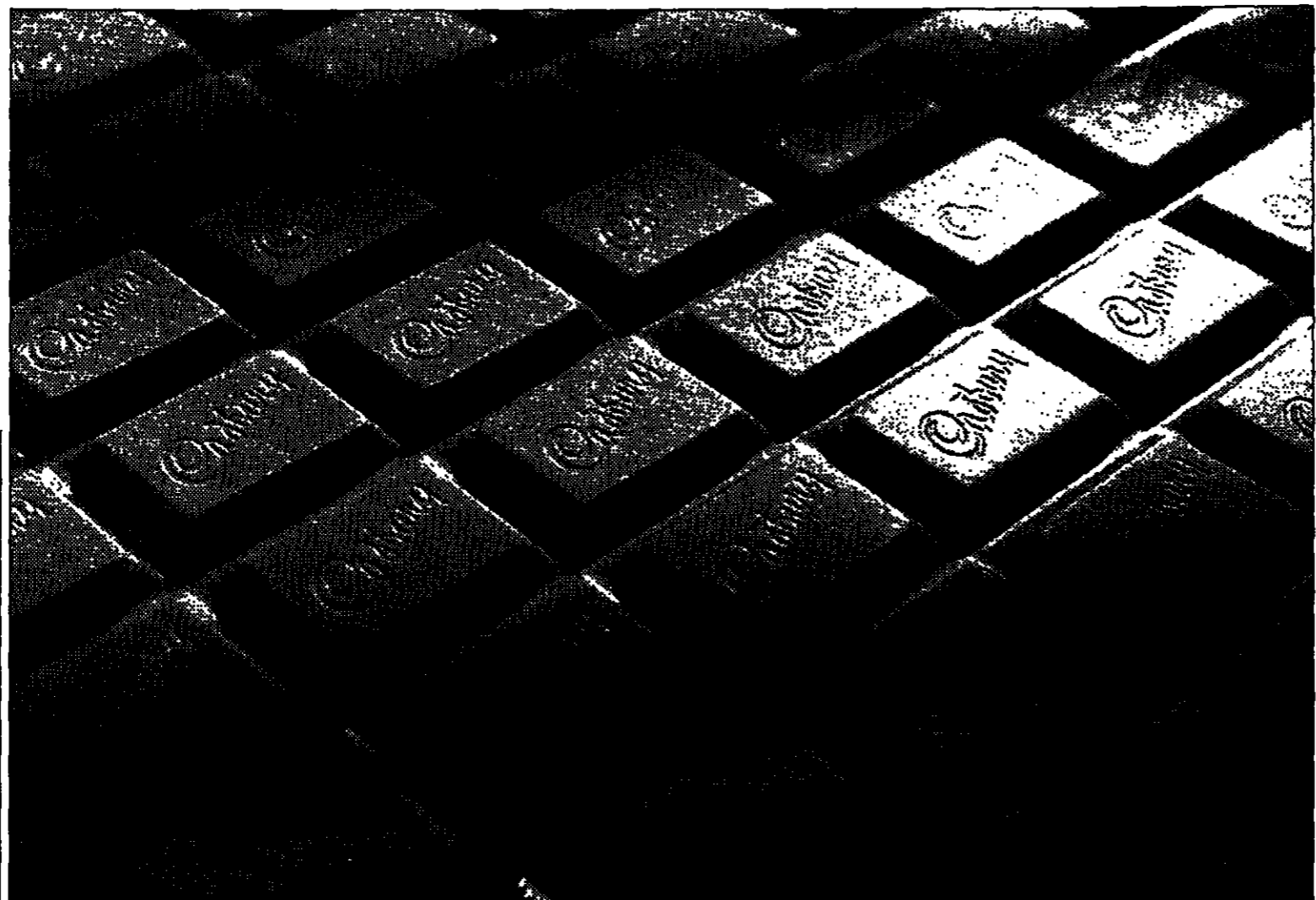
Opponents argued that only pure chocolate, that is chocolate made only with cocoa butter, was worthy of the name. Britain's finest, such as Mars and KitKat, contained 5 per cent vegetable fat.

A compromise in Strasbourg last night gave Britain's confectionary back its good name. Labelling will be changed so that consumers can see without reading the small print that they are buying a product made with vegetable oil.

The issue has divided Europe, with the fine chocolate specialists of France, Germany and Belgium claiming that the version used almost universally in British chocolate bars is not fit to have the name.

The British retaliated by saying the vegetable oil makes the chocolate harder, of more regular quality, less prone to fatty white spots, and less likely to melt in your hand.

John Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance in London, said: "We



Chocolate not vegetable... the British product contains vegetable fat, but the compromise means it can continue to bear the name. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

have been defending this since 1973 when we joined the Common Market and gained an exemption for our chocolate.

"British chocolate has always been made with vegetable oil and it does not taste any different because the taste is provided by the 95 per cent which is made from cocoa butter."

What worried the cocoa bean supporters was the prospect of British choco-

late spreading, originally only Britain, Ireland and Denmark were allowed to use vegetable oil because they had traditionally done so before joining the Common Market. Now newer members — Portugal, Austria, Sweden and Finland — are claiming the right to adulterate their chocolate. The Finns allow 10 per cent in their bars — though they will have to reduce that now.

Under single market rules, now that chocolate containing vegetable oil is allowed the name, other member states will not be able to exclude it.

Supporters of the cocoa bean produced one last trump card: lobbyists acting on behalf of Third World producers such as Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Venezuela claimed they would be put out of busi-

ness unless Britain were forced to toe the line.

A spokesman for the Cocoa Producing Countries Secretariat, based in Brussels, said: "For some countries it would be absolutely disastrous if the British practice spread. It could reduce demand by 200,000 tonnes a year.

"We are prepared to compromise in the labelling providing it's large enough, so that people know it is

made with vegetable oil and don't buy it."

The alliance struck back by claiming that its vegetable oil, made from shea nuts, was vital to the economies of even poorer Third World countries, such as Mali and Burkina Faso.

The European Commission's compromise was that all vegetable oils used will have to come from developing countries — and the labelling must be clearer.

First night

Long on detail, short on focus

Andrew Clements

LSO/Tilson Thomas Barbican

ROBIN Holloway's Third Concerto For Orchestra — commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and given its superbly confident premiere in the Barbican last night under Michael Tilson Thomas — has been a long time in the making. Its origins date back 19 years and it has been much anticipated, not least because the Second Concerto for Orchestra had been the work that at last seemed to pull together all the disparate threads in Holloway's development and weave them into a coherent and distinctive musical language.

A delight in the sensuous complexity of orchestral sound, always one of Holloway's strongest suits, had suddenly been combined with a rigorous approach to the problem of a building a large-scale form. The "Holloway problem", that of a composer who sometimes seemed to adopt a new musical persona with every major work he wrote, seemed to have been solved at last. So a Third Concerto promised a new synthesis, another chance to reassess.

Certainly the language of the new piece is coherent and personal. For all its nods towards influences — Tippett and Sibelius, Stravinsky and Ravel, Bruckner and Wagner — it never seems like fac-tiche, while the aural imagination, the treatment of the orchestra is virtuosic.

Like the Second Concerto it began with an impression of

place, evoking images of South America.

In his programme note Holloway defines the four-section work as "athematic, concerned only with organising its shifting textures into different kinds of momentum. Journey, arrival". It is a strange claim, for the whole structure seems to be full of thematic working, of blocks of material presented, then developed and elaborated.

Everything in the work stems from the clutch of ideas that well up in the opening moments. The rest of the opening section starts to nurture and expand upon them in a series of waves. The second section is a chaconne, a development across 42 variations of a row of musical "objects", stretching out what had been compacted in the opening section, and landing upon a gigantic climax. The third section, gradually picking up speed and then slipping back into uncertainty, seems the nearest thing to programme music in the work, while the finale is a giant dance, relentless and cumulative, pulling together elements from earlier sections and putting them into a final devastating chord.

The scheme is ambitious; the concerto lasts 45 minutes. But too often the welter of detail, the proliferating lines, the skeins of melody carry so much information that separating what is important from passing decoration is almost impossible. Fewer notes and more sharply focused ideas might have made it more purposeful and effective, and a more worthy follow-up to its superb predecessor.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

ALLOY ENGINE 17% LIGHTER

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES



Philip Shrimpton, left, and Kevin Smith, and Maureen Jones, whom they revived

'Dead' woman revived

Policemen shocked as diabetic stirs after collapsing into coma

Martin Walkwright

TWO police officers were commended yesterday for reviving a woman who had been declared dead, after seeing her leg twitch as they checked the bedroom where she had collapsed in a diabetic coma.

The rural beat constables in Yorkshire were called in as a formality after Maureen Jones, aged 58, a mother of four, had been certified dead by her family doctor in Thwing, near Great Driffield.

North Yorkshire Health authority has launched an inquiry into the incident, which echoed the last-minute rescue of the Cambridgeshire pensioner, Daphne Banks, whose feeble signs of life were spotted by an undertaker in a mortuary.

Last night, Mrs Jones's family were getting over the shock of being told she was dead. Her son Neil, aged 39, who found his mother slumped on the floor of her

home and called the doctor, said: "I still haven't got my head round it."

Constables Kevin Smith and Philip Shrimpton, who resuscitated Mrs Jones, said they had been so shaken by the episode that neither had wanted to drive their patrol car back to the police station.

They arrived at Mrs Jones's home in Thwing, less than half an hour after the family's GP, Marion Meeson, had declared her dead.

"The body was lying face down and white, and it had obviously been there for some time," said PC Smith, who has been in the force for five years. "Then the leg moved — it just jumped in the air. I was scared stiff, never mind all this macho police stuff."

Superintendent Peter Wilshaw, divisional commander of Humberside police, said PC Smith, aged 31, and PC Shrimpton, aged 36, were "good solid coppers who had done a first class job". PC Shrimpton had stopped comforting Mrs Jones's family to

help his colleague give heart massage and clear her airways. When paramedics arrived, her eyes were open and showing signs of recognition although she was not coherent.

PC Shrimpton said: "After the event we just sat in the car... so shaken that we were arguing about who was going to drive because neither of us wanted to."

Mr Jones's other son, Nigel, aged 34, said he had been told his mother had collapsed and had rushed from his army base in Suffolk expecting to find her dead, only to hear she was alive in hospital.

He said: "She is recovering well. Her sugar level was right down." All his mother could remember was going to bed on Sunday night then waking up in the hospital.

The family involved in the earlier incident in Cambridgeshire decided not to make a complaint after their GP, David Roberts, apologised. Mrs Banks, an epileptic who took an overdose of drugs, was seen moving as she lay in a bodybag at Hinchingsbrooke hospital, where she was about to be placed in a storage compartment pending an inquest.

Blair told schools need £3bn if Labour wins power

John Carvel

LABOUR leader Tony Blair was told last night that a Labour government would have to increase education spending by at least £3 billion a year immediately on taking office if it wanted to combat "disgraceful" levels of illiteracy and the crisis of underachievement in schools.

Sir Claus Moser, former senior civil servant, said Labour should give "unquestioned priority" in its first two years to assisting nursery and primary education and improving the status of teachers.

David Blunkett, shadow education secretary, welcomed Sir Claus's criticism of the Government but sidestepped the demand for an immediate cash injection.

Masked men shoot PC in his home

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صحنه من الاجل

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Police promise to meet force with force in outbreak of street violence



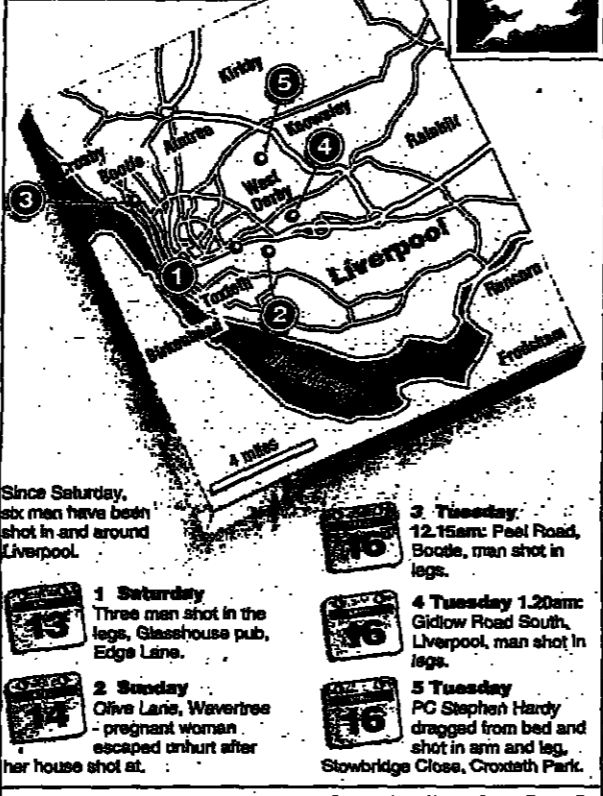
Caroline Kennedy leaving her home in a police car yesterday after the shooting of her partner, PC Stephen Hardy, on Tuesday night

Masked men shoot PC in his home

Peter Hatherington and Stephen Lyle

POLICE in Merseyside yesterday promised to fight armed criminals in Liverpool with force after a constable was gunned down in his home by two masked men — the fifth shooting in the city since Saturday. Chief Constable Jim Sharples warned that weapons were increasingly becoming a "fashion accessory" for criminals in the area, who settled disputes with a gun. Mystery last night surrounded the attack on PC Stephen Hardy, aged 26, whose condition in hospital was described as "serious but stable" after surgery. Armed men burst into the house the constable shares with his girlfriend, Caroline Kennedy, at 11pm on Tuesday and ordered them to lie on the floor. The 28-year-old policeman, who had tried to dial 999, was shot at close range in both legs and his right arm while the couple's one-year-old son lay in a bedroom. The shooting could mark a

Liverpool shootings



Since Saturday, six men have been shot in and around Liverpool. further escalation in the battle between two rival drug gangs for territory in the city following the murder of David Ugi, a well-known gangland figure, last May. This led to armed police adopting a high profile. Detectives believe PC Hardy, whose girlfriend was under police protection last night, could have been the victim of mistaken identity. Yesterday neighbours on the modern estate where the couple live spoke of "unusual activity" at a house two doors away, with rumours of drug dealing among a group of young people in their 20s. They apparently left two weeks ago. One neighbour said: "People would come and go all the time and big cars would arrive at all hours of the night. It could be someone picked the wrong house." Mr Sharples did not rule out a theory that the injured man had upset criminal elements, although the PC was not connected with any major police investigation. He added: "It baffles the imagination to think they can walk into the homes of people, masked and armed with weapons. He warned that armed officers would 'respond with force' if confronted by criminals. While acknowledging that violence on the streets was continuing after Mr Ugi's assassination, and a string of apparent hit-for-hit shootings which followed, he said police were achieving successes, with large-scale weapons seizures and a considerable number of people arrested for firearms offences over the past 18 months. The current violence began last Saturday when three men, one in his early 20s the others in their early 30s, were shot in the legs at a pub in the Old Swan area of the city. The following day a gunman fired shots at a house in Wavertree. At 12.15am on Tuesday, police say four or five men burst into a house in Bootle and shot a man in his 20s in the legs. An hour later three men burst into a house in the Old Swan area and shot a man in the legs. Both men were seriously injured. Paul Stephenson, Director



Stephen Hardy: Shot in both legs and right arm



David Ugi: Series of shootings followed murder

of Operations for Merseyside Police, described the shootings as "reckless and callous acts of barbarians". After David Ugi's murder police began high-profile armed patrols, with Mr Sharples promising to meet force with force. In a statement yesterday, Southern made it clear that it wanted to "combine" its business with National Power, which controls 25 per cent of the British generation market. But it stressed that an approach would depend on the Government's final decision on National Power and PowerGen's own bid moves. National Power, whose shares shot up 56.5p to 578p on expectation of the bid and a bonanza for investors, instructed its shareholders to take no action. City analysts estimated that the US company would be forced to pay up to 750p a share to take control of a company which would value a bid at at least 28.5 billion. In the City the immediate consensus was that a foreign bid for one of the generators would force Mr Lang to exercise his golden share in the company, which forbids any predator building a stake of more than 15 per cent. But some observers suggested that Mr Lang would be hard-pressed to draw a line where he to give the green light to National Power and PowerGen's own expansion plans. Labour last night warned of the "ad hoc restructuring" of the electricity industry and called for new safeguards for consumers. The Consumers' Association warned that the power industry could soon be reduced to three or four super-utilities. "Competition in the market place would then be diluted rather than increased," a spokesman said.

Threat to Tory MPs' hopes of pre-election bonanza

IMF warns Clarke against tax cuts

Larry Elliott, and Sarah Ryle in Washington

THE International Monetary Fund last night told the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that a tax-cutting bonanza in this year's budget was out of the question and joined the Governor of the Bank of England in predicting that interest rates may have reached a trough. Threatening hopes among Conservative backbenchers of cheaper borrowing and vote-winning tax cuts in the run-up to the General Election, the IMF said the delay in repairing Britain's public finances ruled out a budget giveaway while interest-rate cuts risked higher inflation. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, used fresh signs yesterday that the economy may be strengthening to issue his own warning to Mr Clarke about the risks of higher inflation in the pipeline. Mr George said in a speech in Nottinghamshire that he would be "watching very carefully" to ensure that the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target was not jeopardised — and scoffed at commentators who have been proclaiming the death of inflation. "I fear such reports are as premature as those of Mark Twain," Mr George said. "Inflation certainly won't stay dead of its own accord." Government figures released yesterday showed that seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by almost

26,000 to 2,186,000 last month, while annual growth in earnings nudged up in February to 3.25 per cent — the first increase in eight months. With the Bank of England concerned that lower interest rates, tax cuts and windfall gains from building society mergers could stoke up consumer spending, Mr George underlined the point he had made in his monthly monetary meeting with the Chancellor in early March. The two men agreed to cut rates to 6 per cent, but the release of the minutes yesterday reveal that Mr George had said there was "a possibility that rates would have to be raised again at some point further ahead". Mr Clarke stressed he stood ready to put interest rates up later this year if necessary, but added that he would also cut borrowing costs if the economy remained weak. The IMF's World Economic Outlook, which was published in Washington yesterday, said that Britain had benefited from falling out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in September 1992 — recording stronger growth than those countries closely

linked to the German mark — but predicted sluggish growth this year of 2.3 per cent, followed by 2.7 per cent in 1997. This would be in line with or ahead of the Group of Seven average, which the IMF forecast at 1.9 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively. The IMF's chief economist, Michael Mussa, said that Britain's exports had performed better than would otherwise have been anticipated partly as a result of a depreciation in the pound that had not been cancelled out by an anticipated rise in inflation. But while the IMF acknowledged that the recent easing of monetary policy in Britain was the "appropriate" reaction to the slowdown in growth in 1995, it warned that there was no room for further relaxation via a cut in base rates. Graham Hache, an IMF economist, said: "We take the view that the current rate is about right now, but that further easing would not be a good option. That is not to say that rates should be raised right now." The IMF's general warning about cutting budget deficits was extended to Britain. Officials said that Britain was doing better than many other western European countries in terms of keeping a grip on its public finances, but warned that there was no scope for the sort of cuts that the Chancellor would want to make before the election. Leader comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11; IMF calls for cuts, page 12

Power merger mooted

continued from page 1

ket valuation of \$16 billion (£10.5 billion), was forced to go public on its approach to National Power after attempts to line up \$12 billion of financing for the deal leaked to the market late on Monday. Executives from the two companies held hasty talks the same night. In a statement yesterday, Southern made it clear that it wanted to "combine" its business with National Power, which controls 25 per cent of the British generation market. But it stressed that an approach would depend on the Government's final decision on National Power and PowerGen's own bid moves. National Power, whose shares shot up 56.5p to 578p on expectation of the bid and a bonanza for investors, instructed its shareholders to take no action. City analysts estimated that the US company would be forced to pay up to 750p a share to take control of a company which would value a bid at at least 28.5 billion. In the City the immediate consensus was that a foreign bid for one of the generators would force Mr Lang to exercise his golden share in the company, which forbids any predator building a stake of more than 15 per cent. But some observers suggested that Mr Lang would be hard-pressed to draw a line where he to give the green light to National Power and PowerGen's own expansion plans. Labour last night warned of the "ad hoc restructuring" of the electricity industry and called for new safeguards for consumers. The Consumers' Association warned that the power industry could soon be reduced to three or four super-utilities. "Competition in the market place would then be diluted rather than increased," a spokesman said.

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Major told Israel must stop war

Lebanon's PM says Hizbullah 'disarmed when occupiers leave'

Ian Black in London and Derek Brown in Metula

LEBANON is demanding an end to Israel's occupation of the country's south and will only move to disarm Hizbullah guerrillas when Israeli forces leave, the prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri, said yesterday. As Israeli air and artillery attacks — and Hizbullah rocket salvos — continued for the seventh consecutive day, Mr Hariri said after talks with the Prime Minister, John Major, in Downing Street that he preferred a French proposal for a ceasefire to one put forward by the United States — but hoped that both could be combined. Hizbullah rejected the US peace proposal as "suicide". The French plan calls for

commitments by Israel, Lebanon and Hizbullah not to attack civilian populations. The US plan does not include a reference to United Nations resolution 425, passed in 1978 to demand Israeli withdrawal from the south where it controls a border "security zone", while insisting it has no long-term territorial ambitions. Mr Hariri was in London trying to mobilise international support after initial reluctance by Britain and European countries to condemn Israeli raids because of their backing for the Middle East peace process. He acknowledged that he had differences with Hizbullah — a radical Shi'ite Muslim organisation — but refused to be drawn on the role of Iran and Syria in encouraging the guerrilla attacks.

"Hizbullah should be disarmed but doing this now will make it look as if we are facilitating occupation by Israel," Mr Hariri said. "Israel is asking us to be a traitor. We will never do it." Speaking at a press conference — from which two Israeli journalists were ejected — Lebanon's prime minister insisted that the offensive had not halted attacks on northern Israel, where Katyusha rockets have wounded 48 people. United Nations peacekeeping troops in the area said Israeli jets launched about 65 raids on south Lebanon villages and gunners pounded them with 600 shells by nightfall. Three people were killed in the bombardment and nine were wounded, including four guerrillas, bringing to 34 dead and 182 wounded the casualties since the start of the Israeli campaign. "Operation Grapes of Wrath," Israel's prime minister,

Shimon Peres, said he was holding out for a written document, as opposed to verbal understandings that ended similar Israeli strikes against the guerrillas in July 1993. "We don't want to raise expectations," Mr Peres said during a tour of northern Israel. "We cannot expect from this campaign a solution to all the problems." Despite the offensive, Mr Peres is to meet Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in Gaza today. In Paris, President Jacques Chirac told a cabinet meeting he had telephoned the president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, to request urgent European Union aid for Lebanese civilians. Salvos of Katyusha rockets yesterday landed in western Galilee and in the Galilee panhandle, close to the Lebanon border, but Israel's onslaught was restricted by exceptionally low cloud.

ALUMINIUM SUSPENSION 15% LESS UNSPRUNG MASS

She is too nice ever to say that the only way for a woman to have an active political life is to stay single, but it is glaringly obvious that she herself has benefited from her own wise decision. She was the role model I never lived up to and so naturally I hated her.

Maureen Freely G2 page 4

artyr puts the rack

in detail in focus

schools need about wins power

Publisher drops book by 'proud racist'

Gary Younge

A BOOK which claims black people are less intelligent than whites was withdrawn from publication yesterday by its publisher, which branded the views of the author as repellent.

The book — *The g Factor, General Intelligence and its Implications* — by Christopher Brand, a psychology lecturer at Edinburgh university, was to be published today by John Wiley & Sons.

Promising what seemed to be a carbon copy of the furor which greeted Charles Murray's and Richard Herrnstein's book *The Bell Curve*, two years ago, the publisher last week hailed the book as a "well argued, critical review" by a man "well known for his contributions to research and debate on intelligence and personality".

But yesterday the company said: "The management does not want to support these views by disseminating them or be associated with a book that makes assertions that we find repellent."

It said the decision had been prompted by remarks Mr Brand had made in the press in which he had claimed that single mothers should be encouraged to mate with higher IQ males in order to widen the gene pool of their offspring with some intelligent forebears. "They should be encouraged to have sex with higher IQ boys. We could

teach these girls that it would be highly advantageous," he said at the weekend.

"I am perfectly proud to be a racist in the scientific sense. It is scientific fact that black Americans are less intelligent than white Americans."

Mr Brand yesterday stood by his views and said he was contemplating suing the publishers. "They're cowards and they're stupid. They have sat on this book for about a year. This is just another sign of the PC [political correctness] infection. I am taking legal advice and considering suing them for breach of contract."

Asked whether he thought black people did have lower IQs, Mr Brand laughed. "I don't believe you are seriously asking me that," he said. "You won't find any psychologist of any repute who has said anything different since the turn of the century."

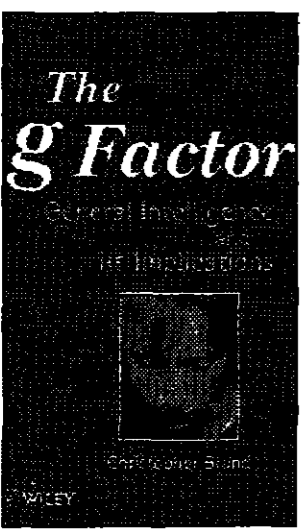
Wiley & Sons admitted Mr Brand had signed the contract "about a year ago". "We publish about 1,200 books a year and it is not the policy of senior management to closely scrutinise them," a spokeswoman said.

Yet last week the company issued a press release praising the book and inviting journalists to interview Mr Brand in London.

"The *g Factor* gives a concise, accessible and critical review of the scientific evidence and addresses the fundamental questions about intelligence in a challenging, but well argued, manner which will both inform and provoke discussion," it said.

Some psychologists have criticised the publisher's decision. "This represents one of my worst fears. An attempt to stifle all intellectual freedom," said Walter Furneaux, professor of psychology at Brunel university. He said there was nothing new in Mr Brand's theories.

But others, like Michael Howe, professor of psychology at Exeter university, believe Mr Brand's views are not only dangerous but wrong. He said: "It is true that certain groups score less well in IQ testing than others, but a score doesn't assess the fundamental quality of a person — indeed, the nature of the tests themselves says a lot about expectations."



Barnaby Reynolds at Lancing, West Sussex, preparing his 'sidewalk cinema' of mannequins for exhibition in Germany, London and New York

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Brussels insists beef ban stays until UK has plan to end BSE

British legal challenge 'will take months' as confusion continues

John Palmer in Strasbourg and Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE European Commission last night refused to lift the world-wide ban on the sale of British beef until the Government provides details of a comprehensive plan for eradicating BSE.

Speaking to journalists in Strasbourg yesterday, the Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischer, said: "The ball is still in the British court."

Mr Fischer later told members of the European Parliament

that he expected the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, to present him in Brussels next week with a strategy, including proposals for culling. These proposals will then be considered by veterinary experts from all 15 EU member states before being discussed by agricultural ministers in Luxembourg on April 20.

The Government's decision to challenge the commission's beef ban in the European Court of Justice is unlikely to bring swift action. European Court officials in Luxembourg last night predicted

that it could take up to 10 months to secure even a "fast track" ruling.

In Brussels, there was confusion about the legal basis on which the commission had imposed the ban. Officials were unable to cite any provisions in the Treaty of Rome.

Spokesmen attempted to claim that Mr Sauter had been misquoted when he said he would be prepared to eat British beef. Such statements by him and Mr Fischer undermine the European case that the ban was because the beef is a danger to health.

Asked in an interview with an Austrian journalist whether he would eat beef in London, Mr Sauter replied: "I would not worry about it. If Mr Fischer as the expert responsible follows this line, I would want to contribute in order to restore confidence."

European lawyers hold there is no legal basis for the ban. The commission argues it was necessary to prevent meat being reimported into the EU from third countries.

A commission spokesman said: "The main concern was to protect consumers' interests and public health."

A urine test which could show whether cattle are incubating BSE is to be considered by the Ministry of Agriculture years after it was developed, writes Paul Brown.

John Bourne, Director of the Institute of Animal Health, told MPs on the agriculture select committee that he still doubted whether the test would work, but he was prepared to check it. Dr Harsh Narang, who developed the test, would be involved.

Dr Stephen Dealler, from Burnley General Hospital, clashed with the Chief Veterinary Officer, Keith Meldrum, when he said he believed the disease was now being passed from cows to calves. Mr Meldrum insisted that only cows fed infected feed had caught BSE. Dr Dealler's work was endorsed by Professor John Pattison, chairman of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee.

Lab help sought in US bomb case

Ian Katz in Oklahoma City

LAWYERS for Timothy McVeigh, prime suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing, have sought the help of a Scottish forensic laboratory to prove that the Gulf war veteran did not plant the truck bomb which killed 168 people a year ago tomorrow.

Stephen Jones, the Oklahoma attorney representing McVeigh, says the judge hearing the bombing case has agreed to provide public funding to hire the Lothian and Borders police forensic laboratory to examine debris from the blast and reports by US forensic scientists.

He said he approached the laboratory because it had worked on the Lockerbie disaster, and one of its scientists had extensive experience with bombings in Northern Ireland. He claimed that the FBI laboratory was too closely linked to the agents who investigated the bombing. "I wanted a real honest-

to-God police laboratory, not a whore," he said.

Mr Jones has also enlisted the help of Thomas Marshall, who served for three decades as Northern Ireland's state pathologist and is regarded as Britain's leading expert on bombing deaths. Prof Marshall confirmed he had agreed to review material relating to the bodies found in the Murrah Building "just to see if everything holds water."

The seven forensic laboratories in England have been taken over by the Forensic Science Service, a "next-step" agency set up under the Government's "marketisation" policy. It has been contracted to investigate a number of high profile foreign cases.

The policy of the Lothian and Borders laboratory on accepting outside work is unclear. A police spokeswoman said no decision had been taken on whether the laboratory would get involved in the McVeigh case.

One year on, G2

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Out-of-place gas giant sparks planet rethink

Tim Radford on an enigma thrown up by a discovery 40 light years away

THE first planet discovered around another star — 51 Pegasi — could force astronomers to rethink the history of the solar system. The planet is too big, too hot and not where it ought to be.

It was detected — nobody has actually seen it — last October from a "wobble" in the movement of its parent star 40 light years away in the constellation Pegasus. Astronomers knew it had to be massive, and they decided that it would also be rocky. It is at least half the mass of Jupiter, and orbits its Sun-like parent at a distance of about 7 million kilometres. Its surface would be 1,300 Celsius.

But the new planet should not be so close to its companion star, according to a team of US astronomers writing in *Nature* today. The standard theory is that stars and planets condense from a spinning, disc-shaped cloud of dust and ice and hydrogen gas; the star at the centre captures so much hydrogen that it bursts into thermonuclear flames. The planets nearest the star have most of their ice and gas blown away by the heat, leaving small rocky cinders like Mercury and Earth in the nearest orbits, and then farther out frozen "gas giants" like Jupiter and Uranus.

Dong Lin of the University of California and his colleagues report today that they think that the mysterious massive planet began much further out and was somehow dragged in.

The discovery that a "gas giant" seems to be able to

INNER SOLAR SYSTEM

51 PEGASI SYSTEM

Gas Giant: Mean distance from the Sun: 778m km. So large, all the other planets in the solar system would fit into it.

Red hot planet 51 Pegasi is a planet about half the mass of Jupiter. A planet this size should not be able to survive so close to a star. Usually planets this big are gas giants orbiting further away from their star. Anything closer is generally just the burnt cinder of one of these giants with all the dust and gas burned off.

Baked disk: are the original gas giants trapped under a hard rocky crust?

Discovery of gene could detect risk of asthma

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

THE recent finding of a gene which contributes to asthma could lead to a screening programme to detect babies more at risk of the illness, doctors say today.

If such infants could be identified it might be possible to limit their exposure to agents in the environment which trigger asthma, such as house dust mites, and thereby protect them from developing the condition.

John Morrison and colleagues, from St James's hospital, Leeds, have been looking at a gene which produces a defence chemical called tumour necrosis factor (TNF). They studied 600 people and found that those with asthma had a variation of this gene which produces an overabundance of TNF. It is the over-production of defence system chemicals that is one of the basic causes of asthma, because the body overreacts to environmental stimuli.

Dr Morrison, a chest physician researching into asthma, said: "We have preliminary evidence that this particular molecule may be a part of the jigsaw. It may be part of what predisposes people to asthma."

"There is a variation in the control part of the gene, so that if there is a stimulus they get more TNF. In effect they are getting an overdose." This is not the gene which causes asthma, but it may be part of the predisposition.

The Leeds team hopes to build on work by Stephen Hoigate and colleagues at Southampton university, who found that exposure to allergens in the first two years of life was critical in whether people developed asthma.

"We think there is a window of susceptibility in the early years of life. If we could identify those people most at risk and protect them from the allergen, we might be able to nip it in the bud."

Can duck on a merc...

A che... and build... transfo...

صحنه من الاعمال

Divorce settlement will barely cover lavish 'royal' lifestyle. Vivek Chaudhary reports



Downhill all the way at Megeve in the French Alps



On the glide again, this time in fashionable Klosters



Wrapped up against the cold during a trip to Meribel

Can duchess get by on a mere £500,000?

THE Duchess of York may be coping with the twists and turns of the divorce settlement, but faces far greater hurdles once her divorce is complete.

Trips here and there

- August 1994. The Duchess borrowed around £100,000 to take her cat to the Côte d'Azur for six weeks.
January 1996. Trip to Washington, where she hired a £1,400-a-night estate.
March 1996. Trip to Qatar for a 26-mile horse race with a £50,000 first prize.

There are four options. If there is not some money coming in which we do not know about, then her business life must show a marked improvement.

The key to her financial future could rest with Budgie. In January, she flew to America to sign a multi-million pound deal for rights to the cartoon character.

A spokesman for Sleepy Kids, the Amersham-based company which has worldwide rights for animation and merchandising for Budgie, yesterday refused to comment on how much the duchess stands to make.

Despite being seen as the nation's least favourite royal, she remains popular in America, and American marketing experts believe she could make a small fortune there with the Budgie deal.

Rumours of the duchess hitting the chat show circuit abound, and newspapers and magazines would pay a handsome price for her story.

Her hairdresser charges £150 for each visit and she also spent about £50,000 for 12 dresses from the top designer Isabel Kristensen.

Given the Duke of York's money, given the Queen's money, given royal concern that she doesn't tell her story, it doesn't seem to add up. She may already have signed things to say she won't tell her story, but there must be temptations... and if she has a fraction of the bitterness of the Princess of Wales, she may feel an element of justification in putting her side of the story and getting paid for it.

From all accounts £500,000 would not keep her for a year, so I think maybe it's part of a bigger picture and there's something else provided.

Reports of the duchess's massive debts and spendthrift lifestyle first appeared in January when she was said to have run up an overdraft of £1 million.

Latest reports suggested that her debts could be up to £3 million.

A breakdown of her expenses showed that she spent £394,000 on staffing - a butler, cook, nanny, gardener, cleaner, dresser, lady-in-waiting, and two personal assistants.

In 1995 she spent £20,000 on clothing, gifts, and social evenings, and another £52,000 on parties. Her annual rent is about £72,000.

Her income for 1996 was £225,000, most of it from interest, the sale of an interview to Hello magazine, and royalties from her Budgie the Helicopter character.

Mr Hall said: "There appear to be four options. If there is not some money coming in which we do not know about, then her business life must show a marked improvement. If not, she must live more modestly - or risk bankruptcy."



Decree nisi day... The Duchess of York with her daughters, Eugenie (left) and Beatrice, on holiday in Verbier, Switzerland, yesterday

News in brief

Crucial NHS project 'faces collapse'

A COMPUTER scheme seen as crucial to development of the NHS is "in danger of collapse", according to internal correspondence in which Wales threatens to leave the nationwide project.

Pilot questioned over drugs

A PILOT has been arrested for suspected drug smuggling after he staged an emergency landing in a field and saw his passenger jump out in front of a propeller.

No confidence vote at FT

JOURNALISTS at the Financial Times passed a vote of no confidence last night in the newspaper's editor, Richard Lambert, and deputy editor, Andrew Gowers, after 30 jobs were axed.

Hope for part-time workers

THE prospect of equal pay and employment rights for part-time workers across the European Union opened up yesterday when EU commissioners gave employers and unions the go-ahead to negotiate a legally-binding "framework agreement".

Compensation plea on killing

THE Ministry of Defence last night said it would view "sympathetically" calls for compensation from the parents of Louise Jensen, aged 23, killed by three British soldiers in Cyprus.

Police face disciplinary action

FIVE Nottinghamshire police officers are to face disciplinary charges for losing five Smith and Wesson revolvers last August, when the guns, in a holdall, fell out of a police van.

Open verdict on schoolboy

A PUBLIC schoolboy with a glittering academic future took an overdose because he could not bear the thought of leaving his college, his stepfather said yesterday.

Builder found dead

A BUILDER may have lain in agony for up to 10 days before he died after falling 4ft through a roof he was knocking down.

Pescado inquests decision

INQUESTS into the deaths of the six crew who died when the trawler Pescado sank 13 miles off south Cornwall five years ago will not be reopened, David Bruce, the East Cornwall coroner, has decided.

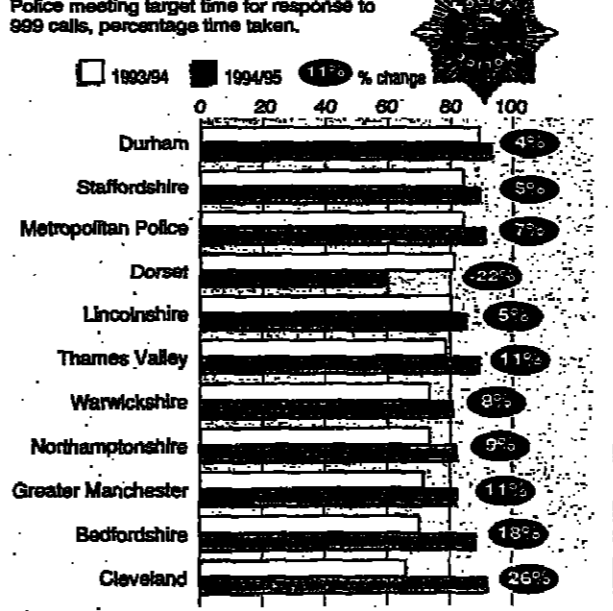
Verdict on 'homes for votes'

THE final verdict on the Westminster council "homes for votes" gerrymandering inquiry is to be published on May 9, John Magill, the district auditor, announced yesterday.

Funds 'may not help policing'

NEW official police performance tables raise doubts over whether there is a direct link between extra funding and better policing, the Audit Commission said yesterday.

Rapid response?



Advertisement for Direct Line mortgage services. Text: 'A cheaper mortgage, no legal fees and 20% off your buildings insurance when you transfer to Direct Line.' Includes phone numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow.

sought mb case

Discovery gene could detect risk of asthma

Late-term condemnation may sway vital votes

Cardinals lambast Clinton on abortion

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

AMERICA'S Roman Catholic hierarchy threatened political disaster against President Clinton yesterday, signalling an election-year clash with one of the country's most powerful voting blocs.

For only the second time, all eight US cardinals joined the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in condemning a presidential decision, on this occasion Mr Clinton's refusal last week to ban a controversial late-term abortion procedure.

In a three-page letter to the president, the bishops threatened an all-out lobbying campaign against Mr Clinton's "shameful veto" of a Republican-backed ban on so-called partial-birth abortions, reviled by "pro-life" activists as virtual infanticide.

"In the coming weeks and months, each of us will do all we can to educate people about partial-birth abortions," the cardinals wrote, vowing to blame Mr Clinton for the fact that the procedure would continue now only because of his decision.

The threat could not carry more weight. The 90 million Catholics in America — nearly one in four of the pop-

ulation — are one of the key groups of floating voters in the country.

They have backed the winning presidential candidate in every election since 1976, when figures on voters' religious faith were first made available.

They account for a large slice of the so-called Reagan Democrats, the urban blue-collar constituency which kept a Republican in the White House from 1981 until 1993.

"The Catholic vote is becoming the jump ball of American politics," said Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition.

"Whoever comes down with that usually wins in November."

Critically, Catholic votes are concentrated in the states Mr Clinton must win — ranging from Polish-Americans in Illinois to Italian-Americans in New Jersey.

Until now Mr Clinton has done well in cultivating Catholic support. His peace initiative in Northern Ireland won plaudits from Irish-Americans, he has lavished praise on the Pope and Mother Teresa, and he advocated a return to school uniforms — already policy in Catholic schools.

But he has incurred the wrath of the cardinals with

last week's veto of the bill, passed by the Republican-controlled Congress, to outlaw partial-birth abortions.

These involve delivering the foetus feet first through the birth canal before crushing its skull in a suction device.

It is used only in the rarest of circumstances, where foetal abnormalities are found too late for other methods.

Mr Clinton wanted to back a diluted version of the ban, but he was wary of alienating his feminist supporters, who regard the legislation as the first step towards banning abortion altogether. The president enjoys a huge lead among women voters and Democrats are anxious not to jeopardise it.

He made his announcement last week surrounded by women who had reluctantly undergone the procedure for the sake of their own health. His aides said he had prayed long and hard before deciding against a ban.

White House advisers are aware of the decision's potential political cost. Graphic pictures of late-term abortions could be deployed to great effect in November, and polls show that Catholics are now evenly split — 49 per cent each way — between Mr Clinton and his Republican rival, Senator Bob Dole.



Suffer the children... The shattered body of Tariq, an Afghan boy aged nine, lies connected to drips, watched over by his anguished mother, Shirreen, in Kabul. Next week the UN will press for a world ban on landmines, to spare thousands more Tariqs across the globe. PHOTOGRAPH: JENNY MATTHEWS

White House faces investigation for 'tacit approval' of Iranian arms supply to Bosnia

AP in Washington

TWO Senate committees will investigate the secret arms shipments Iran made to Bosnian Muslims in 1994 with the tacit approval of the Clinton administration, the Senate majority leader Bob Dole said yesterday.

Mr Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, said the committees on foreign relations and intelligence would probably hold public hearings.

He said the sales took place despite an international arms embargo designed to keep weapons from reaching the warring factions in former Yugoslavia.

"We were being told all the reasons we couldn't do this at the same time the administration was looking the other way, knowing that the Iran-

ians were supplying arms," he said. "Our view is that if the arms embargo had been lifted, as we tried to do on the floor in a bipartisan way, we probably could have avoided sending troops there."

The White House, citing a need for confidentiality, has refused to give Congress an internal report on the administration's decision to allow the shipments.

"The point is not to withhold information," Mary Ellen Glynn, the White House spokeswoman, said. "The point is to protect sources."

She said White House lawyers had decided that releasing the report would violate the confidentiality rights of the president and his Intelligence Oversight Board, which produced the report.

Nevertheless, she said, Anthony Harrington, a Washington lawyer who heads the

board, had fully briefed key legislators on the contents of the report on Tuesday, leaving out the names of sources.

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, could not be reached for comment.

The Los Angeles Times first reported on April 5 that Mr Clinton had tacitly approved the secret shipments in 1994 while publicly supporting the continuation of the United Nations embargo on such arms transfers.

Mr Clinton said a week ago that there was "absolutely nothing improper done" in deciding not to protest against the shipments to the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, who was allowing his country to be used as a channel for the arms flow.

Mr Dole has asked Congress to investigate.

Gadafy of the Green Book shares thoughts

Kathy Evans in Tripoli

THE CIA killed Ron Brown, black and native Americans will carve out their own states and President Clinton may face the same fate as John F. Kennedy. At least, so said Colonel Muammar Gadafy, as he treated the international press to a

two-hour monologue on world events.

Now aged 55, his face lined, his hair thinning and streaked with grey, the Libyan leader looked trim and well, despite rumours to the contrary.

The man the West loves to hate responded in kind yesterday, warning that Libya would stop doing business with companies based in the West. Western companies would miss out on plans to buy a fleet of civil aircraft and build a 600-mile railway.

"We will buy them from India, China, Russia and Japan because every time there is a political dispute with the Western countries, their companies stop sending spare parts," he said.

He lambasted those who attended the so-called summit of the peacekeepers in Egypt for paving the way for Israel's attacks on Lebanon. "All those who attended the Sharm al-Sheikh summit are responsible for killing the children of Beirut today," he said.

United States intelligence, he said, had killed the late US commerce secre-

tary, Ron Brown, in Croatia. "They killed him because he was black and because he was against the sanctions in Libya. They sabotaged his plane."

African-Americans are a subject close to Col Gadafy's heart since the recent visit of the Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan.

worried that Mr Clinton, being a "man of peace", would fall victim to the same kind of plots that killed President Kennedy.

The future of the Jews, too, was a worry. "They are told that Israel is the promised land. It is not, it is the land of death. It is a world conspiracy against the Jews to get them to go and die in Israel," he said.

The colonel spoke amid the debris and twisted metal of his ruined former home in the Aziziya barracks, bombed by the US 10 years ago this week.

Washington threatens to hit Libya again, this time to knock out a plant it says is being developed as the world's largest chemical weapons factory, Col Gadafy explained, with maps that the Taberna plant, 35 miles south of Tripoli, was merely part of the Great Man-Made River Project.

The project will bring the waters of the desert to the coastal cities. The world's largest construction project is due to be finished next September, to coincide with the 27th anniversary of the Libyan revolution.

I asked the Libyan leader if he was tired of being at the top, and considering retirement. He said obviously I did not understand the Libyan revolution, that he had given up running the country in 1977, and it was now run by the people's congresses and the masses. "Read my Green Book," he advised.

Concluding his monologue, he said only in Libya could you hear the truth. It did not bother him that many in the West considered him irrational.

"Innocent and good people all over the world know me and love me," he said.

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News in brief

Man killed at asylum camp

A 29-year-old Turkish man was stabbed to death and seven others seriously injured in a brawl at a registration camp for asylum seekers in south-west Germany.

About 60 people armed with clubs, pipes, iron rods and knives were involved in the incident on Tuesday night at the camp in Ingelheim, near Mainz.

Tension between Turks and ethnic Albanians from Serbia had been reported at the camp and police were called on Monday to break up a fight between the two groups. — AP.

Virus prompts ban

The Philippines yesterday banned the export of live monkeys after an Ebola-like virus killed two Philippine monkeys at a breeding facility in the United States. It will remain in force while a task force conducts tests at breeding farms. — Reuter.

Bikers bombed

Attackers, believed to have been Bandidos motorcycle gangsters, fired anti-tank missiles which badly damaged the clubhouse of rival Hell's Angels in Copenhagen yesterday. The raid is expected to intensify the bikers' turf war, Danish police said. No one was injured. — Reuter.

Border clash

Eritrean troops pushed about four miles into Djibouti and clashed with government troops late on Tuesday in a border dispute, diplomats said yesterday. Up to 600 Djiboutian troops and tanks were sent to reinforce the border. — Reuter.

Cats 'cull'd'

Local authorities in Istanbul are poisoning thousands of cats, dogs and seagulls to clean up the streets before a UN conference on human settlements there in June, animal rights activists claimed yesterday. Health officials denied the charge. — Reuter.

You can tell it's a bandwagon because publishers make the books all look the same. The cover has either a naked ultra-muscular man or some gay fashion icon, still usually a James Dean lookalike.

Ros Coward page 9

URGENT APPEAL

CRISIS IN LEBANON

As you read this, an emergency is unfolding in Lebanon. 400,000 men, women and children have abandoned their homes to escape the recent outbreak of fighting.

The refugees are fleeing north. Many are too exhausted to carry on and are seeking shelter in schools, hospitals and factories. More refugees are expected to join them.

The Red Cross is already on the spot, giving mattresses, blankets and vital food aid to people who have left everything behind. We are the only international aid agency providing assistance throughout southern Lebanon, distributing supplies to medical centres and clinics, and we are deploying 32 ambulances and 25 mobile Red Cross clinics to the areas of greatest need.

Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you.

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Berlusconi promises slash public spending

Plumber's strike

The new Audi

The television mogul's exclusive revelation to John Hooper in Milan could ignite a row before Sunday's closely-fought polls

Berlusconi promises to slash public spending

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the leader of the Italian right, has vowed to slash public spending if he is returned to power in Sunday's general election. In an exclusive interview with the Guardian, he declared: "We shall make our top priority a severe programme of cuts in every one of the many items which make up the budget."

The millionaire politician's uncompromising pledge, which goes far beyond anything he has said in the Italian media, looks set to ignite a furious row in the final 48 hours of a neck-and-neck race for power with the centre-left Olive Tree bloc led by Romano Prodi.

I put it to the media magnate that his warning of strong, unpalatable medicine 'An austerity policy is an absolute necessity; I went into government in pursuit of one'

was a fair cry from the rhetoric of two years ago, when he swept into government on the promise of a "new Italian miracle". "I disagree with you," he said. "The interpretation of our pledge then was different; what we are saying now we said two years ago. An austerity policy is an absolute necessity for our country and I went into government in pursuit of one. There is no [other] possibility — and not just because we are held to an austerity policy out of respect for the Maastricht criteria [for entry to European monetary union], but because our country has inherited a situation that does not allow of any other policy."

We were standing in one of Mr Berlusconi's own television studios 14 hours into his latest gliding, glistening day on the campaign trail. He had swept up to the

doors of the studios on the outskirts of Milan in a seven-car cavalcade. As his bodyguards battled to block the way to local cameramen and reporters, we tore along corridors, up stairs, down ramps and through passageways to the dressing room allocated to Mr Berlusconi for one of the longest and most important interviews of this campaign.

A large part of his success — both as businessman and politician — can be put down to his knack of appearing hugely amused by whatever he is doing. In the bare, neon-lit corridor, he seemed scarcely able to contain his mirth as he asked the presenter whether he had time for a shower.

It was agreed he did, and within a few minutes those of us outside — carabinieri, bodyguards, Mr Berlusconi's "image adviser" Mitty Simonetto, and a constellation of stars from his television channels waiting to pay their respects — were quelled by the aroma of strongly scented toiletries.

Someone had to take him a message, and for a few seconds we were treated to the sight of Italy's former prime minister grinning as he tried to force his shirt into his trousers. Some minutes later, there was a call for "Francesca" and the tycoon's personal make-up artist slipped through the door with Ms Simonetto.

During the commercial breaks in the interview which followed, Ms Simonetto leant over him like a second talking to a boss. Not that Mr Berlusconi was being given a pasting — the interviewer, who is also of course his employee, barely dared to interrupt him. One of Mr Berlusconi's answers ran for almost four minutes.

The media mogul needs all the help he can get in this campaign. His aim, he told us, was a "liberal revolution" aimed at creating a state at the service of the citizen, rather than one that is master of the citizen's destiny. He is proposing, among other things, a "ticket" system for hospitals, and parent choice in education.



Right turn... Mr Berlusconi needs a parliamentary majority to effect a 'liberal revolution' PHOTOGRAPH: STEFANO MONTESI

of what remains of the old regime. "But it is not certain that Mr Berlusconi's alliance offers any greater guarantees. He has yet to state unequivocally that he will be prime minister if his side wins. In this interview, he said he would "keep faith with the commitment I have made to the voters, if that is what they want". One possible reason for this coyness is that Mr Berlusconi is on trial for bribery, though the hearing has been suspended for the duration of the campaign. I asked him whether, if he were found guilty, Italy could have a convicted prime minister. He did not give a direct reply. "Certain executives of a company which are said to have corrupted officers of the revenue guard many years ago. I am not accused of doing that, but of being unable not to have known about corruption that was, in reality, extortion," he said.

Mr Berlusconi added that "the behaviour of certain prosecutors" could provoke a crisis in relations between the various state branches "capable of changing democratic life" in Italy. "The Italian people have understood this very well, and the results on April 21 will confirm it."

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World news in brief

Police 'undermine truth commission'

FOUR of South Africa's former police chiefs warned yesterday of further legal action in defence of the "fundamental rights" of security force members accused of apartheid-era atrocities before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The threat came after the commission had given an undertaking to two former security-branch officers that evidence implicating them in atrocities would be held over, pending a supreme court action next week.

In a joint statement yesterday the four retired police commanders called on the commission to release a list of security force personnel likely to be named, so that they, too, could "force the commission to practise justice".

The secretary of the department of law and order, Azhar Cachalia, accused the generals of "rejecting the hand of friendship", undermining the commission, and "further victimising the victims". He appealed to the security forces to ignore the police commissioners.

The commission continued to hear harrowing testimony yesterday about security force torture, abductions and murders. Nonceba Zokwe described how the security forces had made four attempts on the life of her son before finally killing him — claiming afterwards that they had fired on him in self defence while he was in handcuffs. — David Beresford, Johannesburg.

Chechens kill 26 Russians

CHECHEN rebels have ambushed a Russian convoy, killing 26 servicemen and wounding 51, Interfax news agency said yesterday. A Russian military spokesman told Interfax that the rebels attacked the convoy of 27 tanks, armoured vehicles and cars with grenade launchers and mortars near Shatol, about 80 miles south of the capital, Grozny.

Two more Russian servicemen were killed and 11 injured in clashes in the south of Chechnya.

President Yeltsin yesterday addressed a crowd of thousands in Budyonnovsk, the southern Russian town where more than 100 people were killed in a Chechen hostage-taking raid last summer.

He made lavish campaign promises and promised to end the Chechen war. But much of the enthusiasm that greeted him was caused by curiosity and the mere sight of the president. Before and after the rally, many said they would not vote for him in June. — Agencies, Moscow and Budyonnovsk.

Berlin ceremony defended

GERMANY'S National Olympic Committee has been accused of tastelessness after a re-enactment in Berlin of the torch-lighting ceremony of Hitler's 1936 Olympic Games. At an event marking the centenary of the modern games on Monday, the Olympic flame was lit by Fritz Schilgen, the man who performed the ritual under Hitler's approving gaze 60 years ago.

Mr Schilgen, now aged 89, was neither a Nazi party member nor a soldier when film director Leni Riefenstahl chose him as the ideal Aryan youth — blond, slender, and lithe.

The Berlin Sports Federation has denied that Monday's event was inappropriate in view of Hitler's exploitation of the games — the arrival of the flame became a focus for Nazi rallies — for propaganda purposes. "Anybody who wants to misunderstand it will misunderstand it," said a spokesman.

Mr Schilgen himself was thrilled, offering to run a lap of honour. Some old Berliners wiped their eyes as they watched him climb a monumental set of steps to light the flame. — Denis Stanton, Berlin.

Greek gift to road safety

AS CARS poured into Athens yesterday at the end of the five-day Orthodox Easter break, officials were left counting a record death toll — 37 people killed and more than 400 badly injured in 280 accidents.

Alcohol is being cited as the single biggest cause of the carnage. In recent years, beer consumption has increased by 700 per cent and the per capita intake of whisky — Greece's favourite spirit — is by far the highest in the West. "Elsewhere in Europe traffic accidents are on the decline, but here they are on the rise because Greeks still insist on drinking when they drive," said Professor Yiannis Papadopoulos, who heads the Greek Movement for Road Safety. — Helena Smith, Athens.

Liberian warlords' stalemate



GENERAL Roosevelt Johnson, the Liberian faction leader (centre), speaks out on the situation in Monrovia yesterday from a house near the besieged Barclay's Training Centre barracks where his supporters are holed up. He said the attempt to arrest him 11 days ago, which ignited violence, was an unlawful plot to drive him out of the race for power.

New fighting broke out briefly around the barracks yesterday. Charles Taylor, part of a six-man governing council, said he would not agree to a ceasefire until Gen Johnson surrendered. Gen Johnson said he had no plans to leave the country, contradicting his spokesman, who had said he would consider a Nigerian asylum offer. — AP, Monrovia.

Artful dodgers hone their art

MUGGERS attending their first conference in Bangladesh have decided to double their efforts at busy road junctions in the capital Dhaka, newspapers reported yesterday.

More than 100 delegates bestowed the title Master Hijacker on their leader, Mohammed Rippon, for his record of 21 muggings in two hours. They also resolved to double daily operations to 120 to meet "social and family demands". — Reuters, Dhaka.

'Plumber' strives to plug Russia's nuclear leaks

The threat is not from foreign spies but badly paid workers who may steal to sell to terrorists, writes David Hearst in Moscow

IF RUSSIA'S nuclear industry can be likened to a huge, rusting super-tanker, still functioning but badly in need of repair, it is Yuri Volodin's job to design a system to plug the leaks.

He heads the directorate of control and protection of nuclear and radioactive materials in the Russian nuclear inspectorate, Gosatomnadzor. He is a young man who unambiguously rejects the old doctrine that the sole threat to Russia's nuclear stocks is external and foreign.

In the past few months his department has drawn up five documents, for government approval, which describe the threat in the system of registration, control and storage of nuclear materials.

The main concern had previously been to provide a "regime of secrecy, personnel selection and defence against external threat", Mr Volodin said.

Experience of nuclear theft in Russia speaks otherwise. In the past two years there have been 28 incidents of nuclear theft, all carried out by Russians working in the industry. With the exception of two cases in Murmansk in July and November 1993, where material was taken from the nuclear fuel assemblies of warships, none involved highly enriched uranium (HEU) or plutonium.

According to Mr Volodin, none of the stolen nuclear material reached its destination. "I have no information about

any criminal group which has managed to establish a chain, involving theft, intermediaries, storage of stolen nuclear materials and their purchase by a customer. All the 23 episodes were intercepted at the first stage.

"The opinion I have is that the potential customers are not real people, but were part of a sting operation set up to see if these chains existed. This could either be the special services of foreign countries or of [Russia's] interior ministry."

The exact amount of HEU or plutonium held is a state secret. Informed guesses suggest that, by the end of the century, there will be about 90 tons of weapons-grade plutonium and 700 tons of

weapons-grade uranium — the largest stocks in the world. The United States, by comparison, has 50 tons of plutonium and 200 tons of uranium.

Mr Volodin believes he has won the domestic battle to change hearts and minds. "In the past two years, all the ideology of security was radically reconsidered, and if it was difficult before to convince Minatom [the ministry of atomic energy] of the need for radical improvements in the protection system, now everyone understands this need. The problem is the means. The state does not have enough money."

The reliability of nuclear personnel, the so-called "iron discipline" of the industry, guarantees about 80 to 70 per cent of the required level of security, according to Mr Volodin. But Russia needs new technology, too.

"Not even all the producers of nuclear fuel in Russia are equipped with portals [body scanners] capable of detecting nuclear material," Mr Volodin said.

The weak point in the system is the plethora of scientific institutes which keep small amounts of nuclear material or radioactive isotopes in many buildings, very few of which have scanners.

But there are other weak points. In 1992 Gosatomnadzor was given responsibility for supervising all nuclear materials in the defence ministry. Citing secrecy, the ministry refused them access to many centres. To stop the row, President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree saying supervision and control of the nuclear arms and installations should be returned to the ministry.

The ministry pointed out that nuclear arms were in

any case overseen by a government commission headed by the prime minister.

But Nikolai Filonov, former chief of a military nuclear unit, wrote in Nezavisimaya Gazeta: "There are grounds for alarm... The technical means of protecting nuclear objects are obsolete, and there is no possibility of reaching agreements with industry to get equipment."

He concluded: "In order to prevent, at least partly, the possibility of terrorism, it would be necessary to remove from the defence ministry responsibility for all the nuclear technical units, and give it to Minatom or a specially created civilian body under the security council or the president."

Mr Filonov said: "Recent events in Dagestan [mass hostage-taking by Chechen guerrillas] show the necessity of external supervision."

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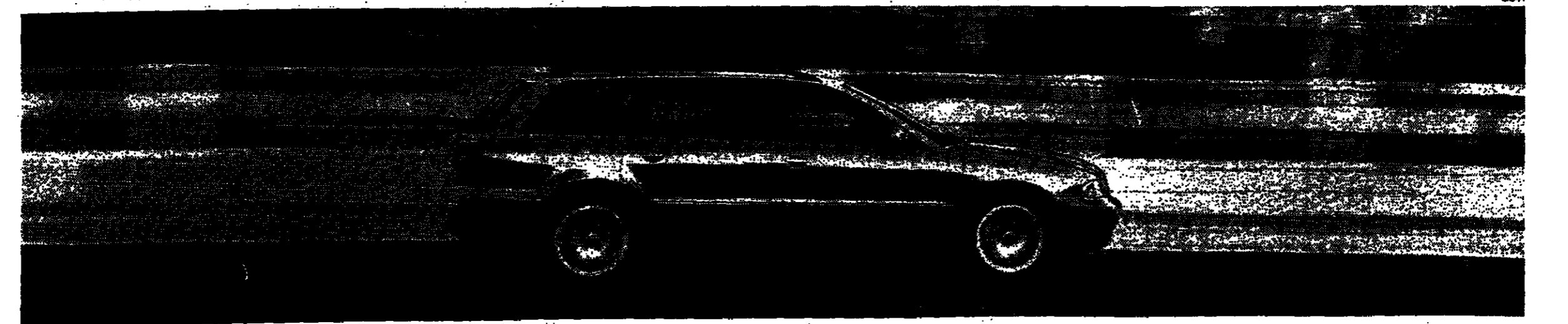
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Cooking up a mini boom

But will pre-electoral bombardment win votes?

TODAY'S NEWS that Labour's lead over the Conservatives has gone up seven points to 21 on the Guardian/ICM adjusted poll suggests that only one thing will save the Conservatives from electoral oblivion: an economic miracle. There is nothing in yesterday's crop of indicators to suggest even remotely that anything like that will happen but, equally surely, economic growth and living standards will probably be much stronger than people realise between now and May 1997 when an election has to be held.

supposed to predict turning points in the economy 12 to 18 months in advance. This index suddenly stopped falling in January (after over 18 months of decline) and started rising in February. Yesterday's figures show that average earnings have crept up from 3.25 to 3.5 per cent in the year to February. This is more than the 3 per cent needed to absorb increases in inflation and taxation and provides further evidence of rising real incomes in the run-up to the election. But we haven't seen anything yet. The feelgood factor will be heavily massaged this month by the paying out of the £4.1 billion tax reductions announced in the budget and by over £1 billion in electricity rebates. These will be joined by extra spending power from £15 billion worth of maturing Tassas (tax-free saving) followed by an aerial bombardment of windfall capital gains from building society takeovers (of which the Halifax alone may be worth £10 billion) and the start of the £3 billion-a-year construction programme generated by lottery projects.

The puzzle about all this is that the vibrant trend of falling unemployment and rising employment is difficult to reconcile with lacklustre economic growth of only 2.0 per cent in the last year. It could be that companies were taking on extra labour in anticipation of an economic revival that never arrived. Or, more likely, the official figures are understating the recovery. Either way the stage is set for quite strong economic growth in the run-up to the election (just as the Government has been planning for). One independent sign of this is in the so-called index of longer leading indicators which is

Everything could be thrown away if inflation is generated by resurgent wage claims or if an undercapitalised industrial base prevents industry from delivering the goods. But time-lags are such that inflation won't explode before the election and may not anyway. There are still strong deflationary forces in the world and plenty of underutilised capacity in the economy. The biggest time-lag of all is the ticking of the clock. There is no precedent for a 21 point lead in the polls being eliminated within a year even by very strong economic growth. But that won't stop the Government from trying, even if it has to empty its economic treasure chest in the effort.

Statistics that are hard to beat

Instead of resisting change, police should take the lead

DOES extra funding produce better policing? No service has had bigger increases than the police yet crime has doubled since 1979. Even a primary school pupil should spot the fallacy in such an answer. Rising crime has multiple causes of which police ineffectiveness remains one of the smallest. Even so, the Audit Commission is right to pursue its scrutiny of police effectiveness. Six billion pounds is spent annually on the police yet the service remains the least accountable and the most secretive in terms of its priorities, policies, and record. Yesterday's second round of annual police performance indicators from the Audit Commission helps fill this information gap.

Commission's monitoring exercise is absolutely crucial. It now has wide experience with other services and has begun its police operation in a sensible way with plenty of caveats and warnings. There was one further police objection: a complaint that last year's exercise was "rewarded with minimal public interest". That is easily solved. The home secretary should insist that every force holds a press conference at which all the Commission's league tables are made available plus the Chief Constable to explain the local force's position.

The chief constables are not enthusiastic. Yesterday they produced a list of extenuating circumstances as long as any criminal's on why the Commission's indicators should be dismissed: the cost of collecting data, its lateness, the inability of indicators to improve services without adequate funding, and the danger of diverting forces from local priorities. They need not have stopped there. They could have added the activities which indicators cannot measure, the ease with which forces can massage statistics, and the different way the same data is measured. There are even more technical objections like differentiating between random fluctuations - in clear up rates for example - from real achievements. All true, yet if the police are to be made more accountable - and more effective - the

One unique aspect of policing is the discretion that is extended to the lowest rung: local officers who once on the beat are unsupervised. All manner of priorities can be devised at headquarters but research suggests bobbies on the beat still pursue their own priorities. Somewhere between the command suite and the beat, even the most modern plan reverts to traditional practice. The service remains ambivalent about modern management: accepting it in principle but still preferring the old military hierarchy in practice. The worst aspect of hierarchical services is the reluctance to accept responsibility: "I'm not paid for that - they are." Rather than bleating about indicators, chief constables should be setting up their own professional institute of police management. Then instead of having new mechanisms imposed on them, they could devise their own - and even become more effective.

The silence of the songbirds

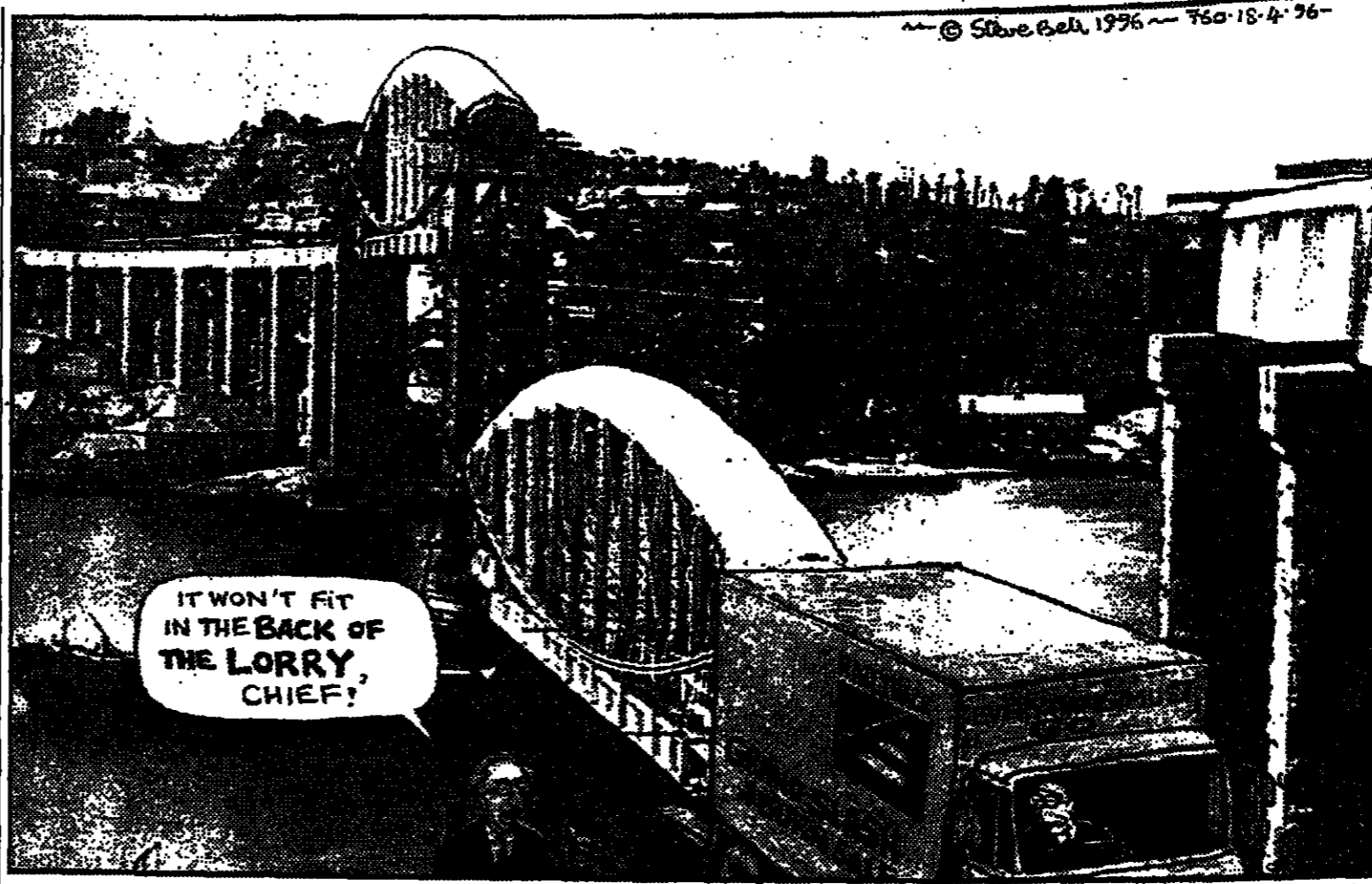
Progress in farming methods has taken a heavy toll on birds

HARK, HARK, the lark at heaven's gate sings, but these days it's getting harder to hear one. Yesterday's warning from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and seven other leading conservation bodies is a real song-stopper. A previous survey, from the late 1980s, showed just eight species in the highest category of concern (where there has been a 50 per cent reduction in breeding population or range over the past 25 years). Now there are 23, including for the first time farmland birds such as the turtle dove, tree sparrow, bullfinch, reed bunting, song thrush - and the famous skylark.

find the fat juicy insects which they need. Seed-seeking species such as the buntings and finches suffer. Rotational cereal planting, with stubble fields ploughed up instead of being left through the winter, creates a sterile environment. So does the continuing shrinkage of hedgerows which deprives the linnet and other species of safe nesting sites. Villages and town suburbs are becoming zones of refuge for birds driven off the hostile land.

Pinning down the exact cause of decline is not always possible, but there are some obvious suspects. Farming has become much more intensive, producing a tidier countryside which is less bird-friendly. Pesticides kill off insects and seed-producing weeds. The grey partridge's chicks can no longer

Most of these birds are not yet rare: the RSPB's efficient monitoring system reckons there are still a million song-thrushes around. But 25 years ago there were 2 million and the pace of decline is probably increasing. Nature - as we have seen in the beef disaster - exacts a high price for being tampered with. To confuse its enemies, the lark descends in silence for the last few metres. We shall know how much we have lost when it is silent all the way.



Letters to the Editor

A poverty of imagination

PETER LILLEY'S response to the increase in poverty in Britain is to state that access to washing machines, cars and central heating has increased among those in the bottom 20 per cent of the income distribution (Poverty, what poverty, April 17). This tells us nothing about the quality of those goods or the reasons why people may need them. The car, for instance, is more likely to be a 20-year-old Cortina - needed for the security guard's job on 23 per hour, where you must provide your own transport and dog - than a four-wheel-drive turbo. The washing machine is unlikely to be a £400 Zanussi; more likely a second-hand machine needed because the local launderette has closed due to vandalism, and you have three young children to bring up. As for the central heating, this is likely to be a blessing in disguise, particularly if you live in a system-built flat with poor insulation.

Conservative administrations have done this since 1978. The last thing most people want is to be dependent on poverty-level benefits. Only ministers who know nothing of the indignity, humiliation and hardship of living on benefits would stereotype people forced to be reliant on them as willing victims. But it's equally apparent that people do not want to be forced into dependence on the low-wage jobs which this government seems to see as the basis of Britain's economic future. Instead they want training, education, affordable childcare and the prospect of worthwhile employment. Peter Beresford, Convenor, Citizens' Commission on the Future of the Welfare State, 15 Falcon Road, London SW11 2PJ.

Not does Mr Lilley's narrow consumerist approach to poverty tell us anything about the quality of the living environment, the opportunities for employment or personal development and the degree to which people feel any sense of control over their lives. One only has to go around the housing estates, the council housing, the sprawling estates or inner-city areas to realise that poverty and deprivation exist to a degree that is unacceptable in an advanced industrial society like Britain. Jonathan Fry, Director, Yorkshire & Humberside Low Pay Unit, 102 Commercial Street, Batley WF17 5DP.

Britain has a "social protection system to prevent poverty", why then were there 125,000 homeless families in England last year? And why are 45,000 single people sleeping rough or living in temporary accommodation in London? What more evidence of poverty does Peter Lilley need? Teenagers are begging in shop doorways for a living, families are living in one room in a bed-and-breakfast hotel, unemployed couples are facing homelessness as mortgage arrears mount. The Government's response is at best complacent. But ignoring a growing problem can only store up trouble for the future. Chris Holmes, Director, Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU.

WE SHOULD no longer be surprised that ministers such as Peter Lilley wish to deny the facts about poverty.

Walk, man

JON Harley wants separate train carriages for mobile-phone users and under-fives (Letters, April 17). How about Walkman-users like himself? On the other hand, we could all just learn to live together. Mark Worsdale, 83 Marshalls Road, Raunds, Northants NN9 6EY.



POOR Jon Harley, oppressed by other people's crying children. The article is paranoiac: no relief is more blessed than hearing someone else's child cry and knowing you don't have to do anything. Laurence Pollock, 31 Springfield Way, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0JN.

COME ON YOU (GREYISH) REDS. Of course Manchester United's grey shirts were a mistake (United decide on no more grey days, April 16). Grey is the colour of depression, submission, defeat and halfheartedness. What we wear colours our mood, our health, our performance. It's not so much "getting out on the wrong side of the bed" that ruins the day, but grabbing a jersey of the wrong colour: it's got nothing to do with fashion, skin tones, hair or eyes. It's simple psychology. In male team games, red is the colour: signifying as it does ego, strength, masculinity, brotherhood and the will to win. Indeed, somebody has analysed the football results for the last 75 years, and discovered that teams with red shirts, socks, shorts - particularly bold clean areas of red - had consistently outstripped their rivals in blue, green or yellow battle-dress. One of the big clubs recently changed the colour scheme in its changing rooms: for its own team red, for the visiting teams grey. The goal: to put the visitors at a psychological disadvantage before they'd even got out on the field. Joy Peach, Colour analyst, 6 Clarks Yard, Whitby, Yorkshire.

YOUR Diary (April 17) asks if I can be made to own up to sporting a non-existent beard 24 years ago. Tony Blair's office specialises in extracting such confessions and retractions: I'm told it's room 101, and, though heavily booked, I'm sure Alastair Campbell would be only too pleased to have me in there. Peter Hutchings, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX.

A natural selection from the Darwin postbag

EVOLUTIONARY principles are not contradicted by the success of social animals, says Alan Grant (Letters, April 15). The social bonds and co-operative behaviour displayed by these animals gives them an evolutionary advantage, making those individuals displaying higher degrees of social behaviour indeed the "fittest" and "strongest" in their environment. Anthony Massey, 35 Davenport Terrace, Hinkley, Leicestershire LE9 7NL.

THE theory of evolution is quite clear on this issue: the fittest, the ones that tend to survive and reproduce, are those that are best adapted to survive in the environment in which they exist; strength doesn't necessarily have anything to do with it. If a creature's survival is aided by forming mutually supportive bonds within a social structure, then those who are most able to form such bonds will probably be the most successful, the ones best fitted for reproduction. Jane Bennett, Levenshulme, Manchester M19.

PHILIP Lloyd Lewis (Letters, April 13) refers to "the evolution versus creation controversy" but to some of us there is no dichotomy between creation and evolution. The Prime Mover of the whole shoot (or "God" as scientists now seem to call it/ him/ for short) could have created an evolutionary universe. Barbara Wall, Hayricks, Rackham, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2EU. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

On the need to give birth to a new vision of parenting

CO-OPERATION is clearly essential to dual parenting (Good riddance to the patriarchy, April 15; Letters April 16, 17), but this has to be built on a foundation of deep communication. This is what women most often feel they lack from their male partners. However, because each partner needs to feel involved, valued and understood, effective communication is not just about men learning to listen to women but depends on a willingness of both partners to appreciate and celebrate their differences and similarities. It is all too easy to imprison each other behind a wall of unexamined expectations. Cindy Mann, Relate counsellor, 23 Milson Street, Bath BA1 1DE.

my partner to do more. His eventual response was that the stress of juggling work and home was what "we feminists" wanted: it was my problem, not his. Reader, I left and became a single parent. I am still juggling work and home. I would prefer our son to grow up with both parents, but if he did so, his most visible role model would be a father who is unrepentant about his non-involvement with home and children. What kind of father would our son then become? I don't want to do without men as Ros Coward claims. I want men to join women in juggling work and home, and I hope that my son will accept this challenge joyfully. Can Ros Coward please focus on why so few men feel able or willing to do so? Name and address supplied.

THREE cheers for Russell Celyn Jones (Letters, April 17) and his commitment to men's involvement in childcare. My partner and I both work full-time, and we have a son. Ben Campbell's statistics are spot-on: I did much of the housework and virtually all of the loving care of our son. Emboldened by Ros Coward's book, Our Treacherous Hearts (where she argues that women have failed to insist that men share domestic labour), I sought to persuade

A FEMINIST is not a mono-athletic siren. Feminists the world over have initiated, inspired and encouraged debates around masculinity and domesticity, including parenting. The complicated responses to fathers and fathering embrace different intellectual and emotional realities if you care to be made aware of them. Which Elizabeth Draper, 44 Heils Road, London SW2 2JS.

Schizoid approach to insanity

FULLY support Meg Henderson (Madness of the "normal variant", April 16). It is one of this government's most criminal acts that it has managed a complete shambles of "care in the community". It rushed to close the mental hospitals, not as a humane act to prevent psychiatric abuse, but for economic expediency. In doing so it saved a vast amount of money. But the money has been spent on facilities to care for the mentally ill in society. Alas, this money was withheld from local authorities, which could have built secure accommodation more fitting to the care of those poor individuals who could not cope with life outside an institution. What is the answer? I part from many in the profession by advocating the dissolution of psychiatry as a dead-in-the-water profession and that the clinical psychologists be allowed to create the right atmosphere for the treatment and care of the mentally ill. That an immediate building programme be instigated for secure, compassionate accommodation run by clinical psychologists and the creation of gradual non-drug programmes

to help less severe cases to be released into the community. (Dr) Stephen F Myler, P O Box 494, Leicester LE5 5ZV. MEG Henderson's attack on alternative approaches to "madness" is the kind of nonsense that gives glaze to drug companies which market psychiatric medication, and causes misery to people looking for asylum at times of distress. To insist that mental distress should be treated as if it were an organic disease is often to condemn those who suffer debilitating side-effects. She sets up an opposition between those who really want to protect people and those who pretend there is no problem. Journals, campaigning magazines and organisations like Psychology Politics Resistance consistently argue for genuine protection of those in deep pain, for real asylum and refuge from the streets, and for some more helpful discussion of alternatives to the notion of "mental illness". (Prof) Ian Parker, Bolton Institute, Deane Road, Bolton BL3 5AB.

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, Ireland: At 6.40am I watched a cat saunter down our drive. She stopped at each lavender bush to sniff, raising her head as if in ecstasy. I immediately thought of our own Puss Cat (She died in my arms in January '95, aged 17. We had the vet come to the house). I took her and our miniature, wire-haired dachshund for a walk in the Duchy of Cornwall woods near Luccett. The dog rushed ahead, her nose to the ground, the cat ambled, stopping every now and then sniffing delicately at the woodland flowers. Many was the fright she gave me, that same cat in her mainly rural deprecations. One summer morning she appeared at our screen-door in Ithaca, upstate New York. I screamed because there was Puss Cat looking like Fu Manchu, with a serpent trailing moustache-like from each side of her mouth. My scream scared the Cat, who dropped the snake

which, with forked tongue flicking in and out of his mouth, rapidly slithered away. I grabbed Puss Cat and then stood transfixed, no longer with fright but with awe. So, like Lawrence, I was "honoured": "How glad I was he had come" a captive, but gladder that he went away free. Once our dog was being starved on our vet's orders (she'd eaten pills for human consumption - the Poison Unit in the hospital had to be phoned for an antidote, hence the starvation). We noticed Puss Cat in the distance walking on the walls, holding something in her mouth. She jumped into the garden, came over to the dog and placed down in front of her the old chicken carcass. There was between them a silent communication, independent of the human world. Their reaction to the Burren after their awful six months of quarantine was joy unconfined. SARAH POINTZ

صوتنا من الاجل

Diary Matthew Norman

EVIDENCE arrives to support Prince Edward's declaration that the class system is dead...

I WAS pleased to see my so-called rival Nigel Dempster analysing the Yorks divorce on Tuesday's News At Ten...

ON that same bulletin, meanwhile, Clare Short was shown getting rather hazy with a reporter...

REASSURING news for those distressed by reports that Railtrack is no longer giving free first-class train travel to its employees...

FOR those of you looking forward to the itinerary from Mandy Mandelson's recent trip to the Far East...

PERHAPS one of the companies Mandy visited was Korean car manufacturer Seangyong...

AFTER 43 years of service to his industry, Cedric Brown's retirement draws to a close...

SHE SAID SHE WAS QUARANTINED THEN TOOK MY CAR AWAY...

A few Short words echo in the void

Commentary Hugo Young

DONALD Dewar, severe commissar of soft-focus New Labour politics...

It's perfectly reasonable for the commissars to demand conformity at the top...

It's perfectly reasonable for the commissars to demand conformity at the top...

Dewar doctrine, that collective responsibility must be observed as rigorously in opposition as in government...

But what did Clare Short do? Her offence was to dissent from a declared policy...

It's perfectly reasonable for the commissars to demand conformity at the top...

It's perfectly reasonable for the commissars to demand conformity at the top...

few words into the pristine vacuum. What this leaves behind, I think, is something more resonant than the noise which can be directed by keeping her off the air...

One reason why she struck a chord, with her muffled reference to a personal position, is that people are getting suspicious of the great void...

Just possibly, in other words, resistance is at last developing to the notion which has held sway for nearly two years: that the only way New Labour must ever be defined is through the carefully wrought, infinitely sincere, universally painless utterance of one man, the party leader...

Eventually, it cannot help

generating some cynicism about the bland generalities behind which the harder facts and riskier policies are kept from view...

Why does New Labour adopt this dangerous strategy? Most of the answer is very simple, and far removed from the substance of a political programme...

Mr Blair's party is in danger of letting the media and the Tories set the limits of its honesty

tion with an appetite they never had when Mrs Thatcher was getting the Tory Party ready to rescue Britain from the socialist nightmare...

European Commission's grotesque hypocrisy over British beef, we know there's almost nothing in this, but the public fuss is more than we can stand...

It's true enough that Labour needs to be especially careful to avoid the impression of disunity. One of its hottest cards is the evident distemper of modern Conservatism...

Most of all, the point is to course Labour's abject defensiveness. Mr Blair's party is in danger of letting the media and the Tories set the limits of its honesty...

to insist.

There's nowt so queer as folk



Ros Coward

IF YOU want to make a name for yourself in academia at the moment, write a book for the burgeoning Queer Studies market...

You can tell it's a bandwagon because publishers make the books all look the same. The cover has either a naked ultra-muscular man (pastiche) or some gay fashion icon, still usually a James Dean look-alike...

It's a shame such language will deter anyone not signed up for a queer-studies course...

THERE'S nothing wrong with the content of queer studies nor its growing body of research...

But queer studies can't be similarly deconstructed. "Queer" sounds self-aware, paradoxical, making the point that sexual identities are, to use the jargon that goes with these courses, "performative"...

Like so many others in this field of studies, Butler makes heavy weather of basically simple points. Indeed, in one form or another, these are the same points which have been constantly reiterated since the humanities abandoned the humanism in favour of anti-humanism...

It is almost as if the language of queer studies is being used to distance it from the social anger that made the writing necessary in the first place. This can be good for no one except those few writers who will make a career within an academy that will recognise and reward their language but ignore the discipline's founding politics...



Sites for sore eyes

Install a city boss; build social housing on barren land; clear the air we breathe; bury tourist coaches. Norman Foster has designs on life in London

LONDON is a unique city. When you look down upon it from the air you realise that, unlike other European cities, it does not have a strong grid pattern of streets...

But when you look closely at London it is one homogeneous city with a £22 billion economy. The problems of infrastructure — public transport, communications, homelessness, parking, pollution and the river — are shared by all Londoners...

The other lines on paper — an organisation diagram of how London is run — makes even less sense. It is a miracle that it works at all. But this maze does explain why the infrastructure of London is creaking at the seams through underinvestment, lack of creative thinking and resourcing...

economy, finance, ecology, planning, architecture, engineering and traffic. That should not be difficult — ironically they number some of our best export skills. This person also needs to be politically independent, elected and answerable to the community...

The Mayor of Barcelona, Pasqual Maragall, is an excellent example. I have witnessed his transformation of Barcelona since my first visit there during the Franco regime...

THERE are, for example, 26,000 families in temporary accommodation, and current plans for social housing fall far short of solving this problem...

the right person. But central government also has an important role to play. Imagine the influence that a government which last year had a £206 billion budget could exert with a commitment to improve the environment...

Higher environmental standards, matched by good design, can address such issues. Government could lead by inspired example...

I have seen the way that a single new building for the community, with a programme of urban landscaping, can regenerate an entire quarter of a small city — we did that with the Mayor of Nîmes in the south of France...

could also help to achieve the linkages of public transport, cycle paths, riverside walks, piers and river buses. Calming the traffic would help to create more civilised spaces for people both along the river and at the ends of the historic routes...

There is certainly the opportunity of creating new spaces as well. For example, Horse Guards Parade is one of the largest surface car parks in London. By removing the cars and linking it to St James's Park, it could become one of the great civic spaces in Europe...

You could also put a hundred of those four coaches which form solid nose-to-tail walls in the centre of London below ground for another 24 million, and really we need a London-wide policy for controlling coaches...

Which healthcare plan offers you more for your money? Advertisement for Legal & General health insurance plans, featuring typical costs and coverage details.

approach to insanity M

صكرا من اللامل

Stavros Niarchos

Master of his own fortune

FOR HALF a century the tankers, carriers and supertankers of Stavros Niarchos... He was a man of his own fortune...

Scared by the spectre of poverty, he determined never to be poor again

Stavros Niarchos. The Greek word for men who marry sisters is batzanakia... He was a man of his own fortune...

later sued by the US government again for breaching the agreement. Consequently, he transferred his operations to Europe... He was a man of his own fortune...

men were able to cash in on the Suez boom... He was a man of his own fortune...



Stavros Niarchos... a curious mixture of playboy and hard worker

PHOTOGRAPH: PIERRE BOLLAT

men were able to cash in on the Suez boom... He was a man of his own fortune...

with whom he had a daughter... He was a man of his own fortune...

Letters

Meriel Lucas writes: I was a friend of the art therapist Edward Adamson for many years... He was a man of his own fortune...

W Arthur White writes: Suggestions that Irish-born Greer Garson may have been an Essex girl... He was a man of his own fortune...

Birthdays

Stephanie Bergman, artist, 50; Dr Clive Booth, vice-chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, 53... He was a man of his own fortune...

Death Notices

COLLIER, Neil, of Boston Spa, died on April 18th 1996 after an illness borne with patience and fortitude... He was a man of his own fortune...



Jimmy the Gent... hunched and handcuffed in 1973

James Burke

Dark world of goodfellas

JAMES "Jimmy the Gent" Burke, who has died aged 64 of stomach cancer... He was a man of his own fortune...

his gentleman's clothing and the kindly way he treated his victims during a career of robbery... He was a man of his own fortune...

But Burke was also believed to be deadly and was suspected of ordering several other killings... He was a man of his own fortune...

Burke's crime spree ended in 1980, west of desperation, federal agents arrested him on a parole violation... He was a man of his own fortune...

him on a parole violation for associating with a known felon... He was a man of his own fortune...

Jackdaw



Jackdaw

will be epic sequences of death, murder and mayhem... He was a man of his own fortune...

jogs. Jammed into the bag at my feet is my weekend reading material... He was a man of his own fortune...

— they were at once a showcase of the regime, and a carefully devised system for milking foreigners of hard currency... He was a man of his own fortune...

Nicholas Fraser remembers the best of lucky Joe Stalin's hotel accommodation in Epsom... He was a man of his own fortune...

● HOW To Be Strong, Sexy And Stress-Free... He was a man of his own fortune...

● WHY Sportsmen Make Lousy Lovers... He was a man of his own fortune...

are. Police raids and confiscations of "indecent" material were not uncommon... He was a man of his own fortune...

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Five-year low in claimant count ● Shephard praises growth ● Meacher slams vast waste of talent

Part-timers cut jobless total

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S jobless total fell to its lowest for almost five years yesterday as the expanding army of part-time workers helped cut the total number of people out of work and claiming benefit — decreased by a seasonally-adjusted 25,700 last month to 2,186,500.

Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard said: "Britain has now entered its fourth successive year of steady growth in jobs and falling unemployment."

There were now 1.4 million people who had been forced into part-time or temporary work, with the heaviest concentrations in wholesale and retail, manufacturing and community, social and personal services.

Unemployment fell by 20,600 among men and 5,100 among women. While there were declines in every region, the biggest reductions were in the South-east, Yorkshire and Humberside, the South-west and the West Midlands.

Statistics believe the underlying trend is for a monthly fall in unemployment of 10,000, slightly lower than the 12,300 average decrease over the past six months.

Earnings growth, which has remained stubborn at an annual 3.25 per cent for the past seven months, edged up to 3.5 per cent in February.

Notebook

Governor has Clarke in sights



Edited by
Patrick Donovan

REPORTS of the death of inflation are as premature as those of the demise of Mark Twain, the Governor of the Bank of England quipped last night.

The remark was intended as a barb at the remarks by City economist Roger Bootle, but the real target for the comment was Kenneth Clarke.

For, after a year in which he has been regularly worried by the Chancellor, Mr George feels he has to move on in the debate over interest rates.

But Mr Lang is powerless to intervene in the deal unless he is part of the decision. For precedents have already been set for generators to take over regional electricity companies with Scottish Power's takeover of ManWeb and Hanson's acquisition of assets. A second DTI would have a hard task justifying it on national interest grounds as it has long recognised the snag of a privatised utility.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.6715	France 7.46	Italy 2.327	Singapore 2.07
Austria 15.41	Germany 2.2075	Malta 0.5265	South Africa 8.14
Belgium 45.25	Greece 357.00	Netherlands 2.47	Spain 163.00
Canada 1.2875	Hong Kong 11.45	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.62
Cyprus 0.7010	India 51.81	Norway 9.56	Switzerland 1.74
Denmark 8.56	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 108.744
Finland 7.09	Israel 4.79	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.4725

A bitter blow for sweets workers

Financial Staff

AROUND 300 staff, virtually the entire workforce, last night lost their jobs at Melitts, the firm best-known for making the New Berry Fruits which used to be a favoured present for elderly aunts.



Melting away... Around 300 workers have lost their jobs at the Melitts factory in Bedford after the company called in receivers

Signet's big profit rise comes with debt warning

Lisa Buckingham

SIGNET, the former Ratners jewellery business, yesterday unveiled a 74 per cent growth in profits but gave its hard-pressed investors little encouragement that its potential \$300 million windfall from the sale of its UK chains, H Samuel and Ernest Jones, was imminent.

Chairman James McAdam said the profits growth to \$28 million for the year to February, marked "another year of substantial progress". But the group remains weighed down by its debt burden which arose from over-ambition during the 1980s and cost \$38.9 million in interest payments during the year.

Watchdog warning on pensions

Teresa Hunter

A CITY watchdog yesterday warned of tough penalties, including heavy fines and even de-recognition, against firms who fail to provide victims of the pensions transfer scandal with speedy compensation.

"sufficiently rapid progress" with the pensions review. This review was ordered back in 1993 by the City's chief watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board, after a report by accountants KPMG Peat Marwick estimated up to 500,000 employees had been wrongly advised to transfer their company pension to an inferior insurance company scheme.

1,091,000 cases identified so far. The insurance companies which were alone responsible for 723,000 wrongly sold policies, have only paid compensation to 1,000 priority cases.

Sun Alliance chief's pay package given a 35pc boost

Lisa Buckingham

ROGER TAYLOR, the group chief executive of insurance group Sun Alliance, saw his remuneration package rise by nearly 35 per cent to £375,121 last year, according to the company's annual report.

Worker's burden

IT TAKES five wage earners to support every one retired person now working in the average industrialised country. But demographics are in the process of changing rapidly. Such is the projected growth in the number of the

High Court rejects Lloyd's attempt to stall hearing

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London suffered a humbling Court defeat yesterday in its attempt to get an adjournment of a hearing to decide whether it can seize compensation awards to Names over their losses.

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Denmark 8.56	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 108.744
Finland 7.09	Israel 4.79	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.4725

News in brief

BT claims fail to convince

Domestic phone users could face higher charges if Ofcom scraps some price restrictions on British Telecom services, said yesterday Philip Cullum, the association's policy manager, told a public hearing that BT claimed Ofcom's proposals were onerous.

Energy demand

THE National Audit Office is being urged by Friends of the Earth and a coalition of local authorities to investigate this summer's £2.5 billion nuclear privatisation after Mike Sadler, an independent expert on nuclear power economics, said that the industry should pay some £208 million a year towards a £24.6 billion bill to decommission reactors.

Bio-tech buy-up

Swiss pharmaceutical group Sandoz is acquiring Imutran, a privately-owned Cambridge-based biotechnology company specialising in developing an-

Tea complaint

A strike by Sri Lanka tea estate workers could cripple the industry, the Planters' Association of Ceylon said. But Arrumgum Thondaman, general secretary of the Ceylon Workers Congress, said: "For the industry to be more profitable the man putting in hard labour must be looked after."

More from Prudential

Prudential yesterday announced a 12 per cent rise to £1.6 billion in sales of life insurance products in the first three months of the year.

Much music

World sales of recorded music grew nearly 10 per cent last year to \$23.3 billion, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry reported yesterday. Compact disc sales reached 2 billion, up 11.4 per cent. Cassettes and vinyl album unit sales fell but singles showed 9 per cent growth.

Sacked Robinson could be elected to Woolwich board

Teresa Hunter

WOOLWICH Building Society members may be excused for feeling confused as well as angry at today's annual general meeting when they will be asked to vote sacked chief executive Peter Robinson on to the board.

Robinson's resignation was not final until he was elected to the board. He is also retiring. The meeting, at which the society's governing body will be reduced to 13 members, will undoubtedly be stormy.

High Court rejects Lloyd's attempt to stall hearing

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London suffered a humbling Court defeat yesterday in its attempt to get an adjournment of a hearing to decide whether it can seize compensation awards to Names over their losses.

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Finland 7.09	Israel 4.79	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.4725

Sarah Ryle in Washington reports on the latest World Economic Outlook

The IMF expects....

Table showing IMF forecasts for Real GDP growth and Unemployment rate from 1995 to 1997 for various regions like World, Industrialised countries, etc.



This way... Premier Ryutaro Hashimoto escorts President Clinton who told their Tokyo news conference yesterday that trade relations are 'on the right track'

IMF calls for painful cuts in public services

The International Monetary Fund last night prescribed fiscal discipline which insisted must be swallowed by leading economies unless they wanted to see growth slip back from already modest levels.

bringing the forecast for this year's world GDP growth to 4 per cent. It warned that even the modest predictions for the industrialised countries were under threat from insufficiently tight fiscal control - the IMF's way of saying that public spending needs to be cut.

There would have to be sizeable reforms to public spending schemes, particularly health and pension provision, according to a special report on the effect of ageing populations. "North American and most European countries have made only limited progress to date in putting their ratios of public debt to GDP on downward trajectories, and debt in Japan, which has been most concerned about the fiscal implications of its ageing population, seems poised to rise sharply in the coming years," the World Economic Outlook warned.

Smiths scrambles to cockpit winner

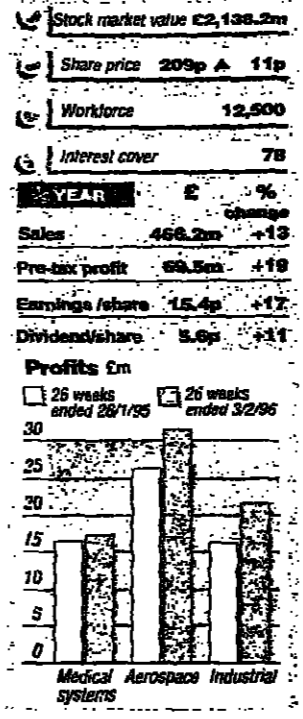
Outlook

SMITHS Industries has won a \$100 million contract to supply electronic equipment for a new fighter trainer for the US Air Force and Navy. "It's a good award and augurs well for the future," said chairman and chief executive Sir Roger Hurst, pointing out that Smiths has been chosen from a shortlist of seven possible equipment suppliers for the new aircraft.

Smiths will initially supply cockpit instruments worth \$23 million for a first batch of 141 Beech Mik11 jets, but the US wants 711 delivered over 20 years. Other countries may buy the fighter if it is successful. News of the order added additional sparkle to Smiths' buoyant half-year profits. All three divisions of the aerospace and medical equipment group produced better results than last year and analysts responded by raising their full year profit forecasts by around £5 million to £164 million.

Pauline Springett

Smiths Industries



Healthy IBM to lift payout while AT&T sees double

COMPUTER group International Business Machines underlined its return to health yesterday with the first dividend increase for seven years, while AT&T, another leading hi-tech American corporation undergoing radical surgery, forecast that it would double in size over the next 10 years.

IBM chairman Louis Gerstner, brought in to rescue the company in 1993 after it plunged to an \$8 billion loss, said yesterday: "We turned in a good, but uneven quarter. Overall, hardware revenues and margins were disappointing."

AT&T is spinning off its computer manufacturing and telecommunication equipment operations into two separate companies. IBM chairman Louis Gerstner, brought in to rescue the company in 1993 after it plunged to an \$8 billion loss, said yesterday: "We turned in a good, but uneven quarter. Overall, hardware revenues and margins were disappointing."

The Underside

Dan Atkinson

BARCLAYS staff will be delighted to learn that help is at hand in their attempt to avert the consequences of customers who resort to the bomb rather than the complaints department. Scanna MSC, which describes itself as the "leading manufacturer of postal and screening equipment" is running a campaign to help people recognise suspect packages. As a taste-free extra, Scanna is offering 5 per cent discounts on post-room scanning products to the British banking sector and to individual members of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union. Hurry, hurry - the super-sensitive offer is for a limited period only... presumably until Barclays' spot of bother disappears from the headlines.

ANOTHER building society bites the dust. This time the Bristol & West, falling into the arms of the Bank of Ireland, and you can't get much wetter than that without emigrating. At least the name will live on, which is more than can be said for all those that have fallen during the last 18 years: the Paddington, City of Derry, Emeralds, the Civil Service, Wishaw Investment, and North East Globe. There was the ambitiously named United Kingdom Building Society (dashed on Northern Rock, 1997) and the unnecessarily specific Property Owners (with the Woolwich since 1986). Jest at your peril. Sir Edward du Cann, during his glory days as Lorrho chairman, brushed off a shareholder with a dismissive suggestion that the man sell his Lorrho stock and put the money in the Steyning & Sussex BS. He didn't even get the name right, referring to the "Littlehampton & Steyning Building Society" (Littlehampton had not granted the title since 1962). Sir Edward's career tanked shortly afterwards.

OFFICES of the Treasury's external and command relations high command resembled Marie Celeste on Tuesday as staff were whisked off on a course to learn all about Oasis. Not the light entertainment quintet, but a new computer system utilising the super-analogue software Windows 95. One cool-cat Treasury insider commented: "Knowing us, Oasis will probably be obsolete in two years' time. I mean the computer system, not the band. The band are already obsolete: they sound just like the Beatles." Right, daddy-oh.

German firm denies bribes claim by Chileans

Paul Murphy

THE German conglomerate Metallgesellschaft has dismissed allegations of fraud and bribery, levelled by Chile's state-owned metal producer Codelco, as groundless and vowed to fight a lawsuit lodged with the High Court in London yesterday. The Chileans allege that an MG subsidiary secretly paid \$1.5 million (£1 million) into a Cayman Islands bank account controlled by Codelco's former futures trader, Juan Pablo Davila, six years ago. But in a statement issued yesterday MG insisted that any payments "were made exclusively in accordance with instructions from Codelco". The statement added: "Although we understand that Codelco wants to clear up the events involving its former chief futures trader, we are taken aback by the attempt to draw a reliable business partner into an affair whose solution can only be found in Chile." Since 1994, Codelco has been investigating a series of trades conducted through the London Metal Exchange that led to the Chilean group losing \$178 million through copper trading. Speaking earlier this week, Wolfgang Becker, a former broker with MG in London who is also named as a defendant in the writ, stated that the dates of transactions mentioned in the writ did not correspond to his time at MG. Earlier this year, Codelco issued a writ against another London-based metals trader, Seagrain. That led to Seagrain suspending three of its top employees at its US subsidiary.

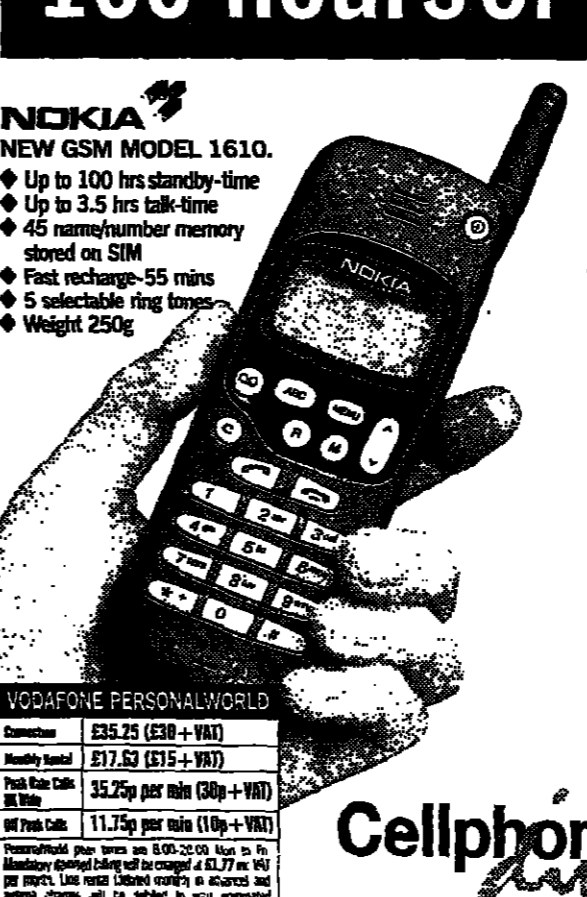


property tycoon David Rowland, whose Montegasse tax status rates a mention. To these Riviera types, one Rowland is much the same as another.

TITAN, the "business club" attacked in Parliament earlier this month as an "iniquitous scam" is up to its lovely old tricks. Last Sunday, maybe 500 potential suckers were herded into a conference hall in Stafford and invited to pay two-and-a-half grand to become "junior members" of the club. The deal is something like this: you join, then sucker in two others. You rake off £450 from each of their joining fees, then for every subsequent "member" you recruit you are paid £1,220. There's no product and no service: this is an old-fashioned chain-letter racket. Titan is based in Hamburg, and is thought to have taken more than £500,000 in fees from perhaps 1,700 people. The DTI neither confirmed nor denied an investigation. Liberal Democrat MP David Rendel told MPs to alert their constituents; meanwhile Titan had better clean up and clear out before proposed amendments to the Fair Trading Act reach the Statute Book.

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!

NEW GSM MODEL 1610. Up to 100 hrs standby-time. Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time. 45 name/number memory stored on SIM. Fast recharge-55 mins. 5 selectable ring tones. Weight 250g.



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Craver to put on Alha

Vertical text and graphics on the right edge of the page, including 'Craver to put on Alha' and 'Newmarket with'.

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Racing

Craven run to put edge on Alhaarth

Chris Hawkins
THROUGHOUT the winter the bookmakers have shortened Alhaarth to prohibitive odds for the Perseus 2,000 Guineas...

paced rivals in the Racing Post Trophy. He must be respected, but more of a danger may be Pommar, racing Elb, who has been working with exceptional promise on John Goeden's gallops...



Free for all... Pat Eddery produces Cayman Kai with a perfectly timed run to win the European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday. Next stop for the colt could be the German 2,000 Guineas.

Sponsorship deal puts Cecil back in driving seat

Chris Hawkins on life after the Sheikh for leading trainer

TO BE spurred by Sheikh Mohammed is a trainer's worst nightmare but Henry Cecil has put his split with the world's most powerful owner firmly behind him...

aimed at the Oaks trials. At the moment Cecil does not have any obvious Derby candidate but several colts with the potential to make the grade, including Dushyantor, Bright Water and Silver Dome.

talked about quite a bit as a possible for the Derby and I plan to start him off in the Sandown Classic Trial, but I think he needs give in the ground so I wouldn't be too confident about him handling Epsom.

Speed not the Festival killer says Club report

Cheltenham racecourse has been absolved of any blame for the death of 10 horses at last month's Festival meeting. A Jockey Club report published yesterday found no single factor led to the abnormal number of fatalities.

This is one of the areas for further investigation, along with the starting procedure which is already under separate review. There must also be the possibility that as more and more jumpers are flat-bred or ex-flat racehorses, the breed is less able to cope with the demands of the sport than the old-fashioned chasing type.

Newmarket with form guide

Table with columns for race numbers, names, and form guides for various races at Newmarket.

Ripon

Table with columns for race numbers, names, and form guides for various races at Ripon.

Ayr (N.H.)

Table with columns for race numbers, names, and form guides for various races at Ayr (N.H.).

Results

Table listing race results, including winners, runners, and odds for various races.

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Advertisement for THE VODAFONE DERBY, SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2.25pm. Includes details about the Queen's Stand Classic Club and group rates.

Advertisement for Nokia mobile phones, featuring the slogan 'Nokia. Power to you.' and 'FREE 50 MIN. CALLS PER MO.' with a price of £9.99.

Soccer

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 0, Coventry City 0

Coventry draw little satisfaction

NOBODY went home satisfied. A point is better than nothing when a team is in Coventry's position...

Forest dominated the first half with an attacking invention that identified their higher pedigree...

Haaland which was ended by Williams's foul on the edge of the area. However, Forest could not capitalise on the free-kick...



Leeway for Newcastle... the midfielder squeezes his shot between Benali and Charlton for the only goal last night

Sheffield Wed 0 Chelsea 0 Pleat plays safe

SHEFFIELD Wednesday's tortuous climb towards Premiership safety continues. Another scrambled point, another step up the ladder...

Chelsea often look a better team than they are. They flatter to deceive in the closest possible way...

Aston Villa 1, West Ham United 1

Alert Cottee snatches late point for West Ham

TONY COTTEE'S late equaliser for West Ham ruined the evening for Aston Villa...

Villa's reply was instant. Yorke left Rieper on his backside before crossing to the far post...

Charles, who left the field surrounded by paramedics who appeared to be tending his left leg...

Scotland lose Ferguson for Euro '96

Patrick Glenn and Russell Thomas

CHAMPIONSHIP campaign in June. On the morning after the 1-1 draw with Liverpool...

showed at its worst. He has already had two hernia operations and it is hoped complete rest will rule out a third...

Manchester City's chairman Francis Lee has reassured his club's fans that Georgi Kinkladze will not be sold...

Advertisement for Sky Sports satellite service. Features the text 'United for the title...' and 'the best ever satellite offer from GRANADA'. Includes a price of £29.99 and contact information.

Table of sports results including Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, and Tennis. Lists various leagues and match outcomes.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Division Dundalk vs St Patrick's Ath. (7-6). Rugby League: Alliance Bradford v Wigan...

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Small text at the bottom right of the page, possibly a notice or a small advertisement.

tyr puts he rack

Cricket Botham stares defeat in face

Mike Selvey

HE HAS come unstuck a few times in "What happens next" on A Question of Sport, but yesterday Ian Botham sensed he had ready-knew today's outcome of the ballot to decide who joins the chairman Raymond Illingworth, David Lloyd and Mike Atherton as England selectors this season.

And for once in his life, the People's Choice looked pessimistic last night. Although he has attracted some support in his campaign, the indications were that he has not mustered the votes to finish first or second of the eight candidates for the two spots.

The result of the ballot will be announced at Lord's this morning but Botham said yesterday: "I'm a betting man and to be honest I wouldn't lay too much on my chances."

But, nothing daunted, he will not let the matter rest. "I'll be back next year," he said, "and the next, and the one after that if necessary." Until, presumably, it is time for a younger man to take over.

Favourites now to top the poll of the 18 first-class counties, plus MCC and the Minor Counties, is David Graveney, who is standing for re-election after one year on the England committee.

A Graveney win would probably go down with Illingworth about as well as an Aberdeen Angus in Brussels. It is after all only a few weeks since Graveney, persuaded by a group of counties to challenge Illingworth for the chairmanship, gained a groundswell of support until the Cricketers Association, the players' union of which he is chief executive, instructed him to withdraw his candidature because of a potential conflict of interest.

There has been speculation that Illingworth will call it a day if he believes his position is undermined by the selection of men of whom he does not approve. But the contest for the second seat looks sure to be a close-run thing, with Graham Gooch, Brian Bolus and John Edrich all vying with Botham.

Bolus, the selector who lost his place to Graveney last year, and Edrich are the preferred choices of Illingworth. Bolus's willingness to be seen around the counties may count in his favour. The other three candidates — Chris Cowdrey, Kim Barnett and Geoff Miller — are thought to be out of the race.

Stewart Hutson (172 not out) and Mike Roseberry (145 not out) set a Durham record with an unbroken opening stand of 384 against Oxford University yesterday.

The left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams lifted South Africa to a five-wicket win over India that takes them undefeated into tomorrow's Sharjah Cup final — against India, who edged out Pakistan on better run-rates.

Adams took three for 30 from his 10 overs — including the prize wicket of Mohammad Azharuddin for four.

Lancashire, who start their four-day Roses friendly at Old Trafford today, have appointed their former wicket-keeper John Stanworth to fill in for their coach David Lloyd while he is on England duties.

Ice Hockey Warriors fight for Arena

LEGAL action is being taken against the company operating the Newcastle Arena, Ogdens Entertainment Services Ltd, which this week terminated Newcastle (formerly Whitley) Warriors' five-year tenancy agreement there.

FOOT-SOLDIERS' MESSAGE TO THE TOP PLAYERS: TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN



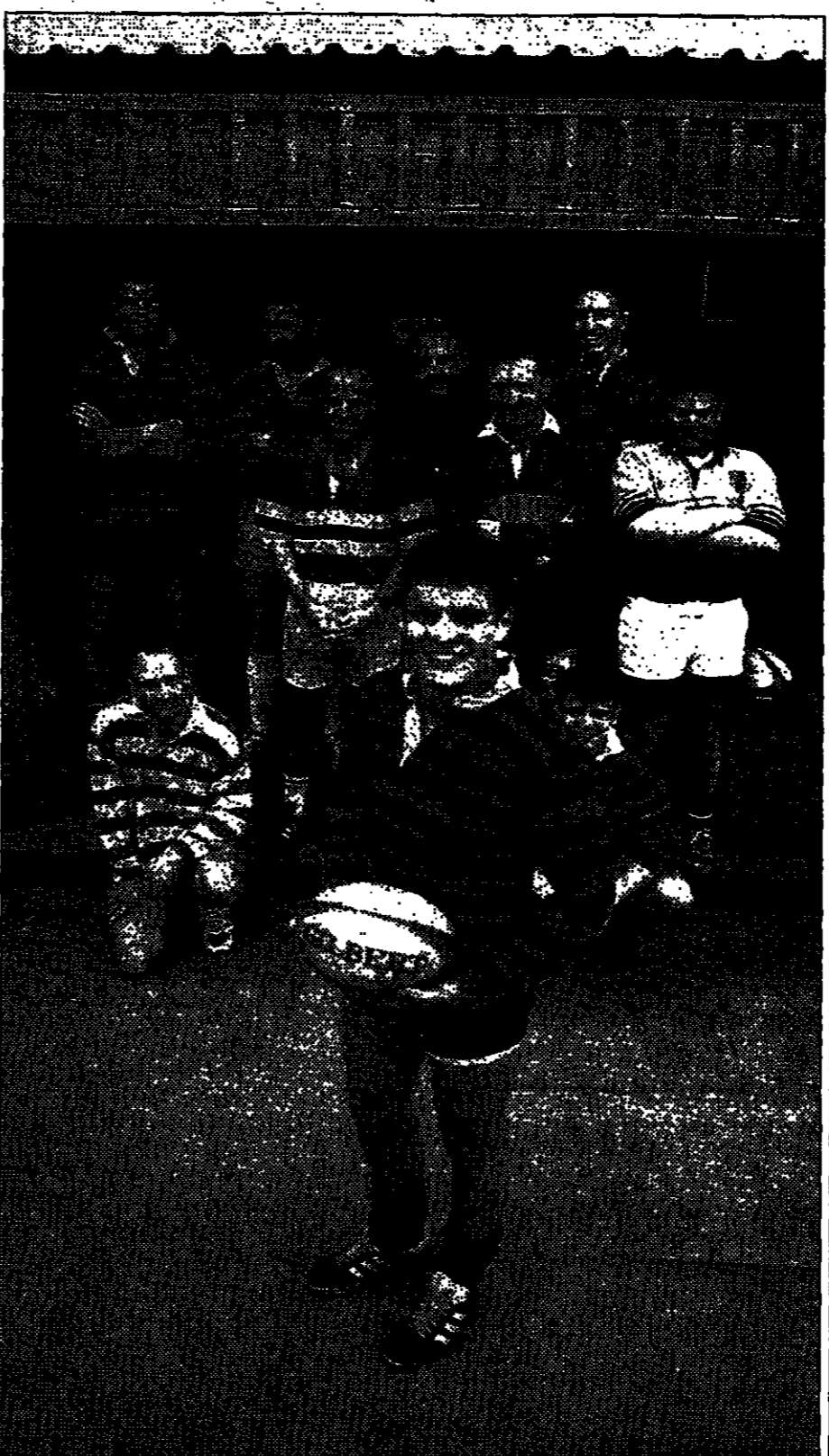
Humbler home... welcome to Twickenham RFC, three miles from HQ, where Tommy Peters, below, and his teammates perform, unpaid and unpaidd PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK BARNOR

Ian Malin visits the other Twickenham and finds strong grass-roots support for the elite clubs and their ambitions

Twickenham finds a rebel on doorstep

TWICKENHAM is in no doubt. England's top clubs should be allowed to go it alone and the rest should be left to fend for themselves. "I think the players should get what they can. It's a professional game now. The top clubs are drawing in the crowds and they should be given more control," says Tommy Peters.

Peters is not a new voice on the Rugby Football Union's executive committee, he is a 21-year-old wing and one of three brothers at Twickenham RFC — which is based three miles and a world away from rugby's HQ. When Cliff Brittle, executive committee chairman, last week talked of "the soul of rugby football, its past and ethos", he probably had clubs such as Twickenham in mind.



Founded in 1967, Twickenham is the 11th oldest club in the union. It may be at the end of a suburban road in Epsom, but it is no leafy arcade. Its five pitches are on land owned by Thames Water and hemmed in by a huge reservoir. The clubhouse is a concrete fortress with metal shutters to keep vandals at bay.

London Marathon

McColgan now trains the Waitz way

Stephen Bierley finds a gritty champion bouncing back from the brink of burn-out

IZ McCOLGAN was in trouble. By her own admission she was coming dangerously close to running herself into the ground. Yet five years ago her future had seemed so secure, she was the undisputed world champion and went on to make the fastest marathon debut by a woman.

Rugby League

Wire drop interest in Skerrett as Mather maddens Wigan

WARRINGTON have withdrawn their offer for Kelvin Skerrett, the 29-year-old Great Britain forward.

Hockey

Great Britain 1 South Korea 1

Takher shot holds Asian champions

KALIBR TAKHER'S first international goal, an unstoppable rising shot, gained Britain a draw in their final game of the six-nation pre-Olympic tournament at Clark University here. The result left the Asian champions unable to overtake Britain in third place in the table.

Sport in brief

Peter Graf charged with tax evasion

PETER GRAF, father of Steffi, was charged yesterday with evading £8.5 million in taxes by failing to report up to £18.5 million in his daughter's income. The Munich prosecutor's office filed the charges against Graf and his tax adviser Joachim Eckardt. The alleged tax evasion took place between 1989 and 1993. Graf, 57, has been in investigative custody since August 2. He and Eckardt are being held, say prosecutors, to prevent them from fleeing or destroying evidence.

Bulls first to 70

THE Chicago Bulls rewrote basketball's record books with a scrappy 86-80 win over the lowly Milwaukee Bucks. It was not the manner or margin they wanted but their 70th win broke Los Angeles Lakers' record 69 wins of 1971-72.

Skelton seeks repeat

NICK SKELTON, riding Dollar Girl, seeks to emulate John Whitaker when he defends the Volvo Showjumping World Cup starting here in Geneva today, writes Judith Draper. Whitaker won in 1990 and 1991 and is the only other Briton to qualify now.

Plain sailing for Britons

BRITISH representatives made the cut in all three classes at the Olympic Qualification Regatta which finished at Murcia, Spain yesterday, writes Bob Fisher. These were Shirley Robertson in the Europe class, Bethan Raggatt and Sus Carr (women's 470) and Richard Spencehouse (Finn).

Armstrong on Huy

LANCE ARMSTRONG, the American cyclist, dominated the Walloon Arrow classic yesterday, shaking off his last challenger Didier Rous on the Wall of Huy, the steep final climb, to win his first race of the season by 3sec after five second places.

Tulu wants double chance

ETHIOPIA are to lobby Olympic officials to make further timetable changes so that Haile Gebrselassie and Derartu Tulu can go for gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres in Atlanta.

David Plummer on more woe for the RFU

Top clubs in new row

THE RFU became involved in its third dispute over money inside a week yesterday when the Pilkington Cup finalists Leicester and Bath protested at the amount they will receive for playing at Twickenham next month.

The teams will each receive some £45,000 from the £2.5 million take at the May 4 showpiece, which will attract a 75,000 attendance, a record for a club match.

But for once the RFU is in agreement with Leicester's chief executive Peter Wheeler in believing the reward is too low. "There is only a little that we can do about adjusting the figure this season but we will do our best," said the RFU secretary Tony Hallett. "For next season we will see that the distribution reflects more accurately the position that the team have reached in the competition."

Hallett then turned to his longer-standing disagreement with Wheeler, one of the two officials who last week, in a dispute over television income and the control of club competitions, threatened to pull England's first and second division teams out of the Courage Championship and Pilkington Cup.

"For next season, on the backing of a substantial number of clubs, we will be able to discuss a reward where the reflection is more equitable," said Hallett. "So my appeal to the main clubs is to get back into our competition and have your say."

Pilkington's sponsorship has risen from £750,000 over the past three years to £1.1 million for the next three. All the sponsorship money has been distributed among the 96 participating clubs.

'Not good enough' Dods out of Scots' New Zealand tour

SCOTLAND have dropped Michael Dods from their eight-match New Zealand tour this summer, even though the Northampton wing was ever-present in the Five Nations Championship this season and scored two tries against France.

"He is simply not good enough" was the team manager Jim Tait's blunt assessment. "You sometimes have to make different selections for tours than for Five Nations matches."

The Melrose scrum-half Bryan Redpath is absent too, but only because he has a fracture in the lower back. Newcastle's Gary Armstrong, hero of Scotland's 1990 tour to New Zealand, is recalled, with Andy Nicol of Bath as reserve scrum-half. Youth is served in the pack, with Watsonians prop Tom Smith selected at loose-head and Edinburgh Academy's Barry Stewart at tight-head.

detail focus

ols need wins

Why 10 horses died, page 13

Soccer's relegation dog-fights, page 14

The other Twickenham speaks, page 15

Botham senses failure, page 15

SportsGuardian

PREMIERSHIP SOCCER

Manchester United 1, Leeds United 0

Keane restores the red

David Lacey

ROY KEANE finally restored the colour to Manchester United's cheeks at Old Trafford last night after the Premier League leaders had produced football as grey as the shirts they have just discarded. For nearly an hour Leeds United, who had seen their goalkeeper Mark Beeney sent off in the 16th minute after he had handed outside the penalty area, were the better side. But in the 72nd minute Keane gathered a deflected shot from Scholes and carefully made a shooting angle before driving the ball past Radebe, who had proved a more than adequate replacement in the Leeds goal.

Having suffered, at Southampton, their first defeat in 19 matches, Manchester United were in need of a restorative. Leeds, beaten in nine of their previous 12 Premiership fixtures, appeared

the ideal opponents to help supply it.

Howard Wilkinson, already without Yeboah and Pemberton because of injuries, replaced Lukic in goal with Beeney and recalled Beesley and Worthington to his crumbling defence. Pallister was back alongside Bruce for Manchester United, making only his sixth appearance in 27 matches because of sciatica.

Within 15 seconds the Leeds defence nearly suffered a collective slipped disc. Keane burst through their cover on the right before setting up a chance for Cantona, who was denied a goal only by Beeney's alertness in blocking the close-range shot.

So perhaps Leeds were not there merely for the taking. In fact they all but took the lead in the seventh minute. Palmer's raking pass out to Gray led to a corner on the right and, from Worthington's cross, Deane saw a glancing header cleared off the line by Pallister.

With the combination of McAllister's stealth and Palmer's urgency challenging a Manchester United midfield lacking the suspended Butt, there was a buoyancy about Leeds which belied their recent form. And still Beeney refused Old Trafford the relief of an early lead, diving hard to his left in the 12th minute to push wide Keane's firmly driven shot.

That turned out to be Beeney's last significant contribution to the proceedings. Four minutes later he came out to meet a long ball from Bruce as Cole closed in, hauled a yard outside the penalty area and was sent off by Keith Cooper. Leeds had no goalkeeper on the bench but Radebe had kept a clean sheet against Middlesbrough just over a fortnight earlier, after replacing a concussed Lukic at half-time, and he now resumed the task. Ford went off to make way for him but losing an outfield player did not immediately alter the game's pattern.

Still Leeds attacked on a broad confident front, with Gray turning past May and Pallister before drawing a full-length save from Schmeichel. May had replaced Bruce, who has been troubled by a hamstring injury, shortly after Beeney's dismissal.

Now Cole began to get on Old Trafford's nerves. Three times he might have scored before half-time but on each

occasion his control let him down, the last after a 40-yard pass from Neville had left the striker clear and onside.

Yet, when Manchester United did get shots on target, Radebe, a goalkeeper at the start of his football career, again showed he had not lost the knack.

In the meantime at the other end, Wehrhall's shot into a ruck of bodies had flown over the crossbar after hitting Deane.

For the second half Ferguson replaced McClair with Scholes to give his side more scoring potential from midfield. But a sense of desperation was creeping into Manchester United's football now, not helped by Cantona scooping his shot over after one from Scholes had been blocked. It was Keane to the rescue.

Manchester United: Schmeichel; Irwin, Bruce, Pallister, P. Neville, Beckham, Keane, McClair, Giggs, Cantona, Cole. Leeds United: Beeney; Kelly, Wehrhall, Beesley, Worthington, Ford (Radebe, Storr), Palmer, Nicholas, Speed, Gray, Deane. Referee: H. Cooper (Pontypridd).

THE RUN-INS

MANCHESTER UNITED
April 27 Nottm Forest home
May 5 Middlesbrough away

NEWCASTLE
April 27 Leeds away
May 2 Nottm Forest away
May 5 Tottenham home

Newcastle United 1, Southampton 0

Lee keeps up the title pressure

Michael Walker

WITH a performance mixing panache and guts, Newcastle maintained their chase of Manchester United by sweeping, and then struggling, past the team that had done so much to bring them back into the race. Robert Lee's goal leaves Southampton with plenty to worry about.

Kevin Keegan had promised he would hold no grudge against John Beresford after their public argument on Sunday, but the

manager's forgiveness did not extend to putting the left-back straight back in. He was on the bench, from where he watched his replacement Robbie Elliott.

With Faustino Asprilla and Les Ferdinand overcoming minor injuries, Elliott was Newcastle's only starting change from Sunday's game.

After Southampton's spectacular victory against Manchester United, Dave Merrington understandably fielded the same team.

The packed Gallowgate shivered anxiously in the fifth minute when Le Tis-

sier found space 20 yards out, but his shot dribbled wide. And after nine minutes Newcastle's first significant attack eased many nerves.

A mighty leap and flick from Ferdinand took the ball to Asprilla, who quickly found Lee in his new role wide on the right. Lee shaped to cross but then cut inside Charlton and struck the ball low into Beasant's right-hand corner.

It was Lee's first goal since December and he nearly had a second in the 20th minute when he

moved on to Elliott's centre, but this time Beasant saved well.

In a frenetic opening, that attack immediately succeeded a dangerous one from Southampton. Marvellous footwork and a deft pass from Le Tissier released Magilton, and Elliott came to meet the Irishman only to stop halfway and turn back. Magilton crossed and Shipperley headed, the ball hit the post, came back off Batty and trundled agonisingly wide for a corner.

Then came a Beasant save from Lee. Yet Southampton were far from ruffed and Beasant had a wonderful opportunity to equalise on the half-hour. Monkou's header at a scrambled corner gave Beasant a free volley 10 yards out, but the defender completely miscued.

Worse was to come for Beasant. From Newcastle's next corner, his stomach-high tackle tumbled Lee in the box. Dermot Gallagher awarded the penalty. Although Beardsley's strike was fierce, Beasant guessed right, dived right and parried the ball to safety.

The action was unrelenting. Venison delivered a vicious half-volley after the restart and an unusual mistake by Albert.

Newcastle were still the dominant force but lacked their earlier cohesion. With 20 minutes left Asprilla made way for Clark, with Beardsley moving up alongside Ferdinand. But further inspiration just would not come and the lack of width, caused by Gillespie's absence, continues to be a problem.

Newcastle United: Hiskop, Watson, Elliott, Batty, Pascoe, Lee, Ferdinand, Albert, Gillespie, Asprilla, Beardsley. Southampton: Beasant, Dodd, Barrell, Magilton, Monkou, Le Tissier, Shipperley, Hearnay, Charlton, Nelson, Venton. Referee: D. Gallagher (Banbury).

Picture, page 14



Gray trouble again... Giggs encounters further shirt problems against Leeds United at Old Trafford last night. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

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Across

- 1 Rise and fall of one of the French, recently deceased (8)
- 5 Farewell, thank you for the dance (8)
- 9 Moved camp (8)
- 10 House signs (8)
- 11 Having had a rise, a man goes on holiday (8)
- 12 Rings, and right inside them, gems (6)
- 14 Manage to give a little publicity to the head of department (10)
- 18 A defender who is prepared to shoot, if need be (5,5)
- 22 Relation puts us in the money (6)
- 23 Showed annoyance in grating nutmeg? (8)
- 24 Lorry driver - one in Leeds - breaks down (6)

Down

- 25 Hobbies make time pass (8)
- 26 Dislike writing notes before exam (5)
- 27 Wolf-like descendant? (8)
- 1 Freshly discovered nebula lacking power (5)
- 2 Fad up with tea-break? Just the reverse (5)
- 3 Cupboard key (5)
- 4 Some turned out great (10)
- 6 One is distressed by it (8)
- 7 Travel overseas to get home (8)
- 8 They charge a County Council with devious ruses (8)
- 13 They shelve their responsibilities (10)
- 15 Bouncer, when boxed in, took the plunge (8)
- 16 Being saucy I am put outside the room (8)

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G2 page 8

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view
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Saudi crisis

Inside

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